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# **A Historical Treasury**



## **A History of Hickory Grove Baptist Church Bladenboro, N.C.**

**1834-1969**

**By Nash A. Odom**









A HISTORICAL TREASURY

A HISTORY

OF

HICKORY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH  
BLADENBORO, N. C.

1834 - 1969

by

Nash A. Odom

Including Listings of Hickory Grove Church  
Cemetery, Old Hickory Grove Cemetery, Lewis  
Cemetery, Edwards (Hester) Cemetery, History  
of Hickory Grove School and Community Develop-  
ment Club.

135th ANNIVERSARY



HCRS

Sunday School Department  
Hickory Grove Baptist Church  
Bladenboro, N. C. 28320  
September 21, 1969

Dear Reader:

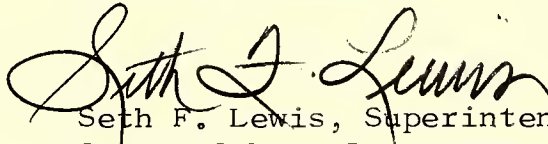
"A Historical Treasury" is the result of many hours of research and study during the past two years by Rev. Nash Odom. His endless patience has brought "A History of Hickory Grove Baptist Church, 1834-1969" to life for the One Hundred Thirty-Fifth Anniversary of our Church. It has been a challenge to work with him on getting the final result published in booklet form, and on behalf of the church and community, I take this opportunity to express appreciation to him for such a fine effort.

This booklet is provided by a special offering through the Sunday School Department of Hickory Grove Baptist Church.

Additional information is provided to the history of the church to encompass more history of the community, which includes listings of the Edwards Cemetery, the Lewis Cemetery, A History of Hickory Grove School, and A Historical Sketch of Hickory Grove Community Development Club.

I commend the booklet "A Historical Treasury--A History of Hickory Grove Baptist Church, 1834-1969" to you, the reader. I believe that it will refresh and challenge you as it has those of us who have worked with its production.

Yours in service,

  
Seth F. Lewis, Superintendent  
Sunday School Department  
Hickory Grove Baptist Church



# A HISTORY OF HICKORY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

1834 - 1969

## Foreword

History is such an awesome study to many, for it brings us face to face with a God who is active in His creation. This year Hickory Grove Baptist Church celebrates her one hundred and thirty-fifth anniversary. Today we stop the march of history for a brief review of the "traditions of the fathers" and the grave responsibility of holding high the "torch of truth" which has been passed on to us. The trials and tribulations of our forebearers and the struggles of the present generation are but ripples on the sea of eternity, yet the prelude to a growing awareness that we live in eternity in the here and now.

This writer would like to express appreciation to all who have assisted in making the history of Hickory Grove Baptist Church available; especially Seth Lewis, who has faithfully worked hand in hand with me. He has assisted in gathering materials for the history and proofread the manuscript and looked after the details of getting it printed for the church. We commend him for his untiring efforts and the inspiration he has provided for us all.

The writer would like to dedicate this history to Elder Elias Davis Johnson, his great grandfather, who served Hickory Grove Baptist Church for thirty years, from 1862 until 1892, and to Elder Elias Davis, the uncle of Elder Elias Davis Johnson, who was the first pastor of Hickory Grove Church, and who served as pastor for fourteen years, from 1834 until 1848.

The records of the church reveal sacrifices which have been made by devout souls, now gone on, to bring the church to where it is today. They have made us heirs to great traditions. Though absent, "they re-dedicate us to a task now become doubly ours, that through the beckoning years the traditions of the church, which they loved, may live and relive in work and in faith." The true history of the church is to be found in the lives of the men, women, and children who have accepted it as their spiritual home.

Nash A. Odom, Pastor  
Dublin First Baptist Church  
Historian for Bladen Baptist  
Association and Bladen County  
Historical Society.

September, 1969.

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## A TRIBUTE

In every period in the history of the Hickory Grove Baptist Church, there have been many heroic and faithful servants of Christ who have kept aflame in the community, the torch of a living faith. These have given sacrificially of their talents and means to make the church a spiritual power in the community. Many have served faithfully in places of leadership for years.

The church today is a living tribute and a lasting memorial to those who nobly began a church in Hickory Grove community over one hundred and thirth-four years ago, and to those who through the years have added so richly to her progress. The church today should cherish the memory of those who have ended their labours and entered their eternal rest. Let us lift our hearts to God in gratitude for those who remain in the church and who share in a rich spiritual heritage.





## THE BEGINNING

Hickory Grove Church was organized on "Saturday before the fourth Lord's Day in August, 1834." The following were constituted into a church with the aid of Elder Dennis Lennon, the pastor of Lennon's Cross Roads Church, and Elder Elias Davis, the first pastor of Hickory Grove Church, who was ordained by the Lennon's Cross Roads Church.

Elias Davis	Amy Evers	Sarah Jane Wood
Elias Edwards	Amelia Wood	Sarah Wilkins
Josiah Singletary	Catharine Singletary	Sarah Singletary
John Ward	Elender Ward	Sarah Ann Singletary
Joseph Wood	Hannah Kellehan	Sarah Ann White
John Wilkins	Margaret Singletary	Penelope Edwards
James B. Singletary	Nancy Singletary	Mrs. Bryan, Amy (colored)
William Wood, Jr.	Mary Edwards, Sr.	Mrs. Evers, Judith
Allen Edwards	Mary Edwards, Jr.	(colored)
William C. Sikes	Sarah Johnston	Miss Westers, Mary
Evers, Jack (colored)	Susannah Wood	(colored)
Mrs. Wester, Nancy	Mrs. Wester, Susannah	
(colored)	(colored)	

Elder Elias Davis was chosen for the pastor, Joseph Wood for deacon, and James B. Singletary for the clerk. The following Confession of Faith was adopted:

"We believe that there is one God, Almighty and Infinite. We believe in Jesus Christ the Son and in the Holy Ghost, three one God. We believe that God made all things visible and invisible, that He made man holy and upright but by the temptation of the Devil, Adam the first man sinned and that all of the human fell or became sinful, that all mankind are totally deprived in consequence of the fall of the first man who being this public head his sin involved the corruption of all his posterity and which corruption extends itself over the whole soul and renders it unable to turn to God or to do anything truly good and exposed is it to his righteous displeasure both in this world and that which is to come; we believe in the atonement made by Jesus Christ abundantly sufficient to atone for the sin of the whole world. Hence we believe that all who die in infant of days or saved through him and that no-one is condemned for the sin of another and that all who believe in him shall be saved though they have sinned but those who believe not the call by his gospel and Spirit shall be damned; we believe in justification by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and Sanctification as a growth in grace more and more resigned to the will of God fit for the Master's use; since we believe that all that have this faith will be active in doing those things which are said do in the word of God for them to do. May the Lord help us to do."



The following Rules of Decorum were also adopted at the constitution of the church:

- "1. Clerk call the list and notice absentees.
2. Conference choose a moderator, moderator to open conference by prayer.
3. Inquire into the state of the church.
4. Open a door for the reception of members.
5. The moderator to be addressed by the appellation of 'Brother Moderator'.
6. No person to take any advantage of another's weakness or slips or be interrupted while speaking.
7. No person to speak without rising up.
8. No person to speak more than twice on one subject without leave.
9. Any motion made & seconded to be debated unless withdrawn by the person that brought it forward.
10. All motions to be decided by a majority of other means will not do.
11. The moderator to have the last vote.
12. Conference to be closed by praise or prayer."

These rules of decorum were changed from time to time as the need arose and were strictly adhered to by the members of the congregation.

Hickory Grove Church began as an extension of the Lennon's Cross Roads Church in Columbus County.<sup>1</sup> The membership of the Lennon's Cross Roads Church extended from Elizabethtown to Fair Bluff and from Lumberton to Whiteville. There were no other churches nearby for the people to attend. Lennon's Cross Roads Church was established in 1797. The demand upon the members who lived at such a distance to meet conference regularly, regardless of weather conditions, became so great that as soon as enough people of Baptist persuasion lived in one community, they organized a church in their own locality. It is believed that the first Sunday School in North Carolina was started at Lennon's Cross Roads Church.<sup>2</sup>

Hickory Grove Church is the second oldest Baptist Church in Bladen County. Mt. Pleasant Church, which is now the White Lake Baptist Church, is the oldest. There have been two churches in Bladen County that have held the name of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church. White Lake Church was the first. Lisbon Baptist Church was known as Mt. Pleasant at the time that Bladen Association was organized. It was later changed from Mt. Pleasant to Lisbon Church.

The first record book of Lennon's Cross Roads Baptist Church records the ordination of Elder Elias Davis, the first pastor of Hickory Grove Church. The pastor, Elder Jesse Rogers, of "Mt. Pleasant Church in Bladen County" (now White Lake Church) participated in the ordination on the second Monday in October, 1832.<sup>3</sup> This was two years before Hickory Grove Church was constituted.



In the May Conference of 1835, a Sarah Wilson was received by letter from the "Mount Pleasant Church of Bladen County". This was the fourth conference Hickory Grove Church had held. By the April Conference, 1855, letters were granted to R. Hales and his wife from Hickory Grove Church, to unite with the White Lake Baptist Church. The name then was changed during the years before 1855.



## THE CHURCH BUILDINGS

Hickory Grove's first church house was built of logs. The house didn't cost much for the people had little to give. The materials were donated by the members. The treasurer's report to the February, 1857, Conference recorded a "balance due for building the church of \$49.00". In January, 1858, the treasurer reported \$33.50 due for the building. In October, 1858, the financial report says, "for building the house all was arranged to be settled". It was reported in September, 1859, that the building of the church house was all paid up.

The land upon which Hickory Grove Church was built was donated at different times by Ewen Johnson, Robert M. Sessoms, R. L. Bennett, W. L. Miller, and John Shipman.

One deed says that land was given by Robert M. Sessoms in 1854. He gave then one acre of land. The trustees were Ewen Johnson, David Singletary, and Allen Edwards. This land was on the South-side of the marsh near the residence of Brother Sessoms. Witnesses to the deed were Elias D. Johnson and Daniel Willis. <sup>4</sup>

Another deed declares that Ewen Johnson and his wife, Rachel, in 1881, gave two acres of land to the church. It was located on the South-side of the marsh near the residence of Furney Davis. Trustees were Allen Edwards, George W. Jones, and Robert M. Sessoms. <sup>5</sup>

On April 24, 1880, Conference, Deacon Ewen Johnson was appointed to have the deed for the land on which the church stood recorded in the Register Book of Bladen County.

Another deed declares that R. L. Bennett and his wife, on March 28, 1912, gave a small parcel of land containing 55/100 of an acre to the church. Trustees were J. N. Singletary and Ephraim Singletary. This land joined the church land. <sup>6</sup>

On May 21, 1910, the Conference minutes record that Brethren Ephraim Singletary and Seth Lewis were appointed to see a Mr. Bennett in regard to a strip of land lying between the church land and the public road. In the August Conference, 1910, it was reported that Mr. Bennett agreed to make the church a present of the land, provided the large trees that would sap his land were cut.

Another deed declares that W. L. Miller and his wife, on November 6, 1934, gave 9/10ths of an acre to the church. This land joined the church land. <sup>7</sup>

Another deed declares that John D. Shipman and his wife, Miriam Jane, gave 9/10ths of an acre on September 4, 1958. This land was East of the old school lot. <sup>8</sup>





In Conference, January 20, 1900, the church agreed to build a new house of worship to be 45 feet long by 32 feet wide and the height to be left to the building committee. The building committee consisted of J. M. Sessoms, G. F. Allen, Ephraim Singletary, E. J. Lewis, and F. L. Nance. This is the present wooden building now used by the church. The minutes of Bladen Baptist Association state that the building was built in 1900. The minutes of Bladen Baptist Association for 1927 record that the building was valued at \$2,000. Additions were made in the 1930's. In 1948, \$3,818.09 was spent in new buildings according to the associational minutes. Sunday School rooms were built in 1955.

The pastor's home was built in 1956, and was valued then at \$11,500. The total church property was valued at \$36,500, in 1959.

From the conference minutes we gathered the following information about the contents and up-keep of the church's buildings.

In the July Conference, 1861, the church ordered the pastor, E. Johnson, to purchase one large Bible and Hymnbook for the use of the church. It was to cost \$3.50.

In the May Conference, 1866, the church ordered that the clerk sell the stove belonging to the church as soon as possible, as it was worthless.

On June 24, 1882, a building committee consisting of Ewen Johnson, Furney Davis, and James N. Singletary, was appointed to arrange for the ceiling and fixing up the church house.

On January 19, 1889, money was raised to supply the pulpit with a new Bible.

On January 20, 1900, the church instructed a committee to buy a pulpit Bible and a church recordbook.

On May 19, 1900, the church agreed to tender to a Mr. Hester, all the pine timber that will be near enough to reach the new house, also those near the graveyard.

In April, 1902, the church agreed to meet on Saturday morning of the next meeting to place blocks under the church.

In July, 1902, the church agreed that the building committee sell all the pine timber on the church yard.

In March, 1903, it was agreed to take up a collection to finish ceiling the church.

In August, 1903, it was agreed to hire a carpenter to ceil the church.



In June, 1904, it was agreed to paint the church. A subscription of \$45.25 was raised.

On August 27, 1904, it was authorized to finish painting the church.

In November, 1906, it was reported that the church carpet had been received and the church voted to give the surplus carpet money to the orphanage.

On October 9, 1927, the church voted to paint the church on the outside.

On November 24, 1917, a new heater had been put in the church.

On November 9, 1927, Roy Hester and Marshall Singletary were appointed to repair the foundation of the church building.

On February 10, 1934, F. T. Nance donated a lighting plant to the church.

On November 4, 1956, the church voted to cut the pine trees on the church property to be used for building material for new Sunday School rooms.

On May 13, 1956, the church voted to buy new chairs for the Sunday School rooms.

In 1964, the floors of the church were refinished at a cost of \$130.00. Carpet was purchased for the sanctuary. New pews and pulpit furniture was bought at a cost of \$2,800.00. The gas space heaters were removed and the church put in central heating which cost another \$2,800.00.

In 1964, the community house was built beside the church and made available to the church for use.

In 1967, the church put in central air-conditioning at a cost of \$3,500.00.



## ASSOCIATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

About the middle of the 17th century, Baptist churches in England initiated the practice of joining together in associations, with the chief purpose to maintain fellowship among scattered congregations. American Baptists adopted the practice, forming the Philadelphia Association in 1707, the Charleston Association in 1751, and the Sandy Creek Association in 1758. Sandy Creek, North Carolina's first association, was thus the third formed in America. Shubal Stearns, a Separate Baptist leader and founder of the Sandy Creek Association, had become convinced that an organization composed of delegates from the churches was needed to impart stability, regularity, and uniformity to the work of the churches.

Since 1758, most of the Baptist churches organized in North Carolina have either joined an association already in operation, or formed a new one more conveniently located. The early associations held meetings almost exclusively for worship and fellowship, with sessions which continued for four or five days, until most of the ministers present had preached one or more times. After the Civil War, associational meetings gradually took on more of the characteristics of business sessions, with emphasis on devising ways and means for the extension of missions, education, temperance, and Sunday School work.

Hickory Grove Church was received into the Cape Fear Association soon after she was constituted.

The Cape Fear Association was organized in October of 1805, at Saddletree Meeting House in Robeson County, after a division of the Neuse Association. In 1806, member churches were in Bladen, Brunswick, Cumberland, Duplin, New Hanover, Onslow, Robeson, and Sampson Counties. The Cape Fear continued to use the Philadelphia Confession of Faith in the form previously adopted by the Neuse. In 1825, the Cape Fear Association calmly agreed to allow the churches east of the Black and Coharie rivers to form the Goshen Association. Immediately following the session of October 20-23, 1898, the Cape Fear, with 24 churches in Brunswick, Bladen, Columbus, and Horry (S. C.) Counties, united with Columbus as the Cape Fear-Columbus Association.<sup>9</sup>

At the first conference of Hickory Grove, August of 1834, the delegates to the Cape Fear Association were appointed, being Elias Davis, John Wilkins, and John Ward to the Cedar Creek Church in Cumberland County. It is most probable that Hickory Grove adopted the Philadelphia Confession of Faith since this was the one adopted by the Cape Fear Association.





In the Triennial Baptist Register for 1835, three Baptist Churches are listed in Bladen County as members of the Cape Fear Association. They were Beaver Dam Church (now in the New South River Association), which had 114 members; Mount Pleasant Church (now the White Lake Baptist Church), which had 56 members, with William J. Finlay as pastor; and Hickory Grove Baptist Church, with 48 members, with six received that year by baptism and Elias Davis was the pastor.<sup>10</sup>

A report on the Cape Fear Association, found in the 1835 Triennial Baptist Register, is interesting. It is given as follows:

"The past year has been with the Cape Fear Association rather barren. The harvest of souls has been small, and is there not a cause? Verily there is. Only a few of the churches enjoy the blessings of a regular ministry. And this is not owing so much to the scarcity of preachers, as to the want of a disposition on the part of the churches to support them. The churches too generally proceed upon the principle, that their presence on fair and pleasant Sabbaths is an ample reward to the minister. He is chained down to manual labor all the week to secure subsistence for himself and family--he has no opportunity for study--on the Sabbath he must go and preach, and poor man, the principal variety in his sermons is the selection of a new text. Under such circumstances as these, it is not at all to be wondered at, that the number annually added in the association is no greater." 11

In the minutes of the Cape Fear Association in 1851, Hickory Grove had 80 members, eleven baptisms, and the pastor was J. Stone of Lumberton, N. C.<sup>12</sup>

Cape Fear Association for 1857, met at the Lennon's Cross Roads in Columbus County. The Committee of Finance for the Domestic Mission Board, reported receiving \$10.00 from Hickory Grove Church. In a digest on the state of religion in the churches, the report on Hickory Grove was "Is in Peace". Elder F. Prevatt was pastor. Hickory Grove was represented in 1857 by Ewen Johnson, R. M. Sessoms, and A. Edwards. There were 105 members, which included 20 blacks.<sup>13</sup>

The Cape Fear Association met with the Big Branch Church in Robeson County, N. C., on October 23rd and 27th, 1873. Hickory Grove had 165 members and had the largest membership of any Baptist Church in Bladen County. She was represented by R. M. Sessoms, Noah Mercer, and M. Pate.<sup>14</sup>

The Cape Fear Association met at Back Swamp Church in Robeson County, N. C., on October 22-25, 1874. The largest church in Bladen County was Hickory Grove, with 162 members, including 13 Negro members. Delegates were R. M. Sessoms, N. Mercer, and



E. Johnson. Hickory Grove is reported as "In Peace and Prosperity."<sup>15</sup>

The Cape Fear Association met at Ashpole Church (now Fairmont), Robeson County, on Thursday, October 23, 1879. Hickory Grove had 169 members, including 4 Negro. Delegates were R. M. Sessoms, L. P. Singletary, and J. H. Singletary.<sup>16</sup>

Hickory Grove Church was also a member of the Columbus Union, for in August of 1886, she requested a letter of dismissal from the Columbus Union to unite with the Central Union.

Central Union was organized at Galeed Church in 1885, with Galeed, Sandy Grove, and Clarkton Churches as charter members. At the time Hickory Grove joined, the Central Union consisted of Galeed, Sandy Grove, Clarkton, Mt. Pleasant (now Lisbon), Edwards Chapel, and Bethel Churches. Each church had four representatives to the Union--the pastor, two deacons, and a layman. The purpose of the Union was to "perpetuate union, communion, and maintain a religious correspondence so conducive to the interest of Christian character, especially for the promotion of a well organized church discipline." In 1926, the Central Union agreed to unite with the Bladen Union and assume its name. At the last session, the subject discussed was "How shall we meet the tendency of our people to neglect the church service?" It was discussed by Revs. D. H. Hilburn, W. O. Biggs, R. M. Hilburn, and W. A. Coleman.<sup>17</sup> At this time, the Central Union consisted of the following churches: Abbottsburg, Center Roads, Bethel, Sandy Grove, Love's Grove, White's Creek, Zion Hill, West Bladenboro, Galeed, Hickory Grove, Elizabethtown, Richardson, Bladenboro, Shady Grove, and Brown's Creek churches.

Hickory Grove Church was also a member of the Robeson Baptist Union for awhile. On June 29, 1844, Hickory Grove obtained a letter of dismissal.<sup>18</sup>

On Wednesday and Thursday after the second Sunday in October, 1892, the Cape Fear Association met at the Shady Grove Baptist Church. the churches of Bladen County were called to a meeting later in October at Brown's Creek Baptist Church, to discuss the organization of a Bladen County Association. Delegates at that meeting decided to organize the new association. On November 7, 1892, delegates from the Baptist churches of Bladen County met at the Mt. Pleasant Church (now Lisbon) and organized the Bladen County Baptist Association.<sup>19</sup>

On June 22, 1889, when a discussion was brought up about a new association in the church conference, Hickory Grove was opposed to forming a new association and chose to stay with the Cape Fear Association.



The Conference on November 26, 1892, reports an effort to consolidate the Cape Fear Association and the Columbus Association. A convention was to meet with the church at Pleasant Plains. Brethren George W. Jones and Wm. R. Davis were appointed delegates and instructed to vote against the said consolidation. It was not until 1898 that the Cape Fear Association, with her 24 churches, united with the Columbus Association to become the Cape Fear-Columbus Association. The Cape Fear-Columbus Association voted on October 22, 1936, to drop "Cape Fear" from its name.

It was on September 16, 1893, the church agreed to petition the Cape Fear Association for a letter of dismissal from that association.

On September 22, 1894, the church agreed to connect with the Bladen Association. The first delegates to this association were W. R. Davis, George W. Jones, and J. W. Singletary.

Bladen Baptist Association has met with Hickory Grove Church on six occasions: 1896, 1906, 1922, 1932, 1945, and 1955.





## HICKORY GROVE CHURCH REACHES OUT

Hickory Grove Church has been since her constitution, a strong believer in missions. She has not only contributed financially of her resources, but she has given many of her members to organize other churches. She has perhaps done more than any other church in Bladen County in starting new churches. Her members went forth to begin churches at Galeed, Bethel, Sandy Grove, Shady Grove, Zion's Hill, Love's Grove, Center Roads, Bethel, and others.

SHADY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH was organized by 1855, and Hickory Grove Church was the nearest Baptist Church to Shady Grove Church at this time. The earliest references to Shady Grove Church are to be found in the minutes of Hickory Grove. It can therefore be assumed that Hickory Grove is the mother church. The Conference for June, 1855, records that Civil Thompson and Mary McGee were received to the fellowship of the Shady Grove Baptist Church. Minutes of the Conference for June of 1856, records that "Brother Cain reports that he said he wanted to come but could not on the account of his health and that he wanted a letter of dismissal to join Shady Grove Church which was near him. Also for his wife and two daughters which was granted him." Sister Sally Russ was granted a letter on February of 1860 to join Shady Grove.

In the April, 1873, Conference minutes, there is mentioned a new church being constituted near the 8 mile post and in the June Conference, a letter was granted to Evander Singletary to join the church known as the SANDY GROVE CHURCH in Bladen County.

On September 24, 1881, a letter was granted Sister Mary E. Roberts for the purpose of assisting to constitute a new Baptist Church near Brother James King's. On September 23, 1882, a letter was granted to Jesse Pait to join BETHEL CHURCH and on November 25, 1882, a letter was granted Delia Blackburn to join Bethel Church.

On September 26, 1885, William A. Butler asked for a letter for the purpose of helping to organize a church on the Cotton Road near the two mile post. On the previous August 22, 1885, letters were granted to Sisters Wrenny Evers and Helen Guyton to join the CENTER ROADS CHURCH. Also letters were granted to Charles Evers and John J. Evers to join Center Roads. On February 27, 1886, letters were granted for F. A. Pait and Albin Pait to join Center Roads Church. On May 16, 1886, Sister Caroline Hester and Sister Sarah A. Guyton moved their letters to Center Roads.





On July 17, 1886, letters were granted to Sisters Appie Edwards and Sophia, to join ZION'S HILL CHURCH.

On February 25, 1893, an order was presented and read from the Central Union requesting the church to pay Brother Clark \$1.00 for three months preaching at Tar Heel. Action was deferred until the next conference and at the next conference the church agreed to take up a collection for paying Brother Clark for preaching at Tar Heel, and the amount received by offering was \$.55.

In 1873, quite a few members were dismissed because they had joined the Methodist Society and the Free Will Church. In the September Conference of 1873, there were twelve dismissed for joining the Free Wills. This was probably the Oak Grove Free Will Baptist Church, since both churches aren't far from each other.



## THE CHURCH CONFERENCE

In the early days of the church, the courts of the land did very little to correct the social injustice that prevailed. Therefore, the responsibility of correcting social injustice fell upon the church. To be excluded from the church was just about the most terrible thing that could happen to a person. He was humiliated, put to open shame, and cast forth from the fellowship. When a church member failed to walk as a Christian should walk, he was brought before the church, and if he did not make amends for his wrong doing, he was excluded from church membership. The usual proceeding was for a committee to be appointed to seek out the person accused and endeavor to get them to confess their sin and ask for forgiveness.

Members were brought before the conference for "drunkedness", "improper language", "fighting", "bedding with a married man", "nonattendance", "joining the Methodists", "joining the Free Will", "profane swearing", "keeping a woman in the house", "singing play songs", "retailing ardent spirits", "fiddling and dancing", "fornication", "cursing", "frolicking", "getting into a fray", "mistreating wife and children", "denying the inspiration of part of God's Word", "teaching and preaching false doctrines", and "fishing on Sunday". These were charges brought against members in the Hickory Grove membership.

One brother was forgiven by the church for drunkenness, provided he would drink no more in public. Two sisters were dismissed because they could not be reconciled to each other. One brother was brought up on charges of profanity which he had spoken some twelve months before. In the August Conference of 1855, a brother brought forth the question, "Is it right to make cider and sell it?" It was discussed for some length of time and then laid on the table to be considered at some other time.

In the early days of the church, there were no fine roads to travel, and horse and buggy was the common means of transportation. Regular attendance was required for church conference and poor weather made this impossible, for it was difficult to cross swamps and creeks during a wet season. There was no conference in June of 1862, because of lack of members, owing to the deep waters, rain, and other causes.

In Conference on May 27, 1893, it was agreed that no minister of the gospel or old member not considered able to attend regularly, be marked absent from the conference.

On April 10, 1897, the pastor was granted a leave of absence in May to attend the Southern Baptist Convention in Wilmington, on May the 7th.



The time of the conference and the worship services varied. In Conference on August 26, 1893, a meeting started at 4:00 P.M. The preaching was to be in the daytime and more at night. On September 22, 1894, the church voted to have preaching during the meeting as follows: 2 sermons a day - the first at 11:00 A.M. and the second at 4:00 P.M. On September 24, 1904, the church agreed to have both services in the daytime. Prayer Meeting was at 10:00 A.M. Preaching was at 11:00 A.M. and again at 1:00 P.M.

The conference was intended to be a time of handling spiritual affairs and the people felt that they were attending to God's business. On March 26, 1904, the church agreed to set aside Friday before and the next regular appointment as days of fasting and prayer.

The church services were not always held at the church. Sometimes the members would gather at the home of a sick member and have services. On one occasion, on August 25, 1894, the church "agreed to raise at least five dollars to contribute to the grave of our much esteemed Bro. Elder Robert M. Sessoms." A collection was taken up that amounted to \$5.25. Then on May 25, 1895, the church agreed that "the next Saturday appointment in June, the services would be held at the family graveyard of the late Elder R. M. Sessoms instead of at the church, for the purpose of erecting the tomb to the remains of the lamented Elder R. M. Sessoms."

The conference used to grant letters to individuals which were valid for a certain period of time. For example, on November 26, 1881, letters were given to Brother John Munce and his wife to be valid for six months. Also, letters were given to individuals to take to whatever church of like faith and order they wished to join. But now the practice has ceased and letters have become communication between churches only.

On November 4, 1951, the church voted to discontinue Saturday preaching on conference. This became a relief to the many working people who found the conference impossible to attend.

The church dealt with the honesty and integrity of her members. It may seem that our forefathers were a bit severe, but the churches today are certainly much too lax in their requirements for church membership.



## ORGANIZATIONS

The Sunday School was organized on the third Sabbath of May, 1877. There are no records available on the Sunday School previous to 1913. Brother Roy Hester was Sunday School Superintendent that year and served for several years. The enrollment was 46 in 1914. The largest number enrolled was 187, in 1960.

An incomplete list of Sunday School Superintendents is given as follows: Roy Hester, Seth Lewis, J. F. Brisson, Julius Allen, Luther Davis, Ralph Lewis, Ervin Hester, Leo Hester, Miller Hester, Luther Brisson, Leo Richardson, and Seth F. Lewis.

The Woman's Missionary Union was first organized on the third Sabbath of May, 1877. It was soon disbanded and reorganized in 1939, with Mrs. June Singletary as its first President.

The following known women have served as President: Miss Columbia Singletary (1923), Mrs. Pency Hester (1924), Mrs. George Hester (1925), Mrs. June Singletary (1939 and 1943), Miss Althea Lewis (1944), Miss Ruby Hester (1945-1954), Mrs. Harvey Allen (1955), Miss Geneva Allen (1956-1958), Mrs. J. C. Shaw (1959), Mrs. Harvey Allen (1960-1961), Mrs. Sam Hickman (1962-1963), Mrs. Ralph Singletary (1964), Mrs. Luther Davis (1965), and Miss Geneva Allen (1966-1968).

The Baptist Training Union was organized in 1924, with June Singletary as the Director. There were 24 enrolled that year. Mr. Fred T. Nance served as Assistant B. T. U. Director for Bladen Baptist Association from 1935 to 1939, and as the B. T. U. Director from 1940 to 1946. Those known to have served as Director are: June Singletary, Fred T. Nance, James C. Singletary, Ralph W. Lewis, Luther Brisson, G. B. Davis, Luther Davis, Elden Hester, Leo Hester, and Kenneth Davis. Mr. Fred T. Nance served at least 16 years as the director.





## THE PASTORAL MINISTRY

The typical Baptist preacher of the 19th Century came from the ranks of the people, among whom he lived and to whom he preached. He was a farmer and worked on his land five or six days each week, except when he was called upon to hold week-day meetings or funerals. He preached on Saturday and on Sunday, and not infrequently during the week. He generally was without much education, for not only was there little opportunity for him to obtain an education, but there was a deepseated prejudice against educated and salaried preachers. For many years Hickory Grove did not pay a stated salary to her pastors. He was paid from offerings taken for the purpose.

Hickory Grove Church has had 25 pastors since her constitution in 1834. Elder Elias Davis Johnson served the longest pastorate-- 30 years. He was followed in length of pastorate by E. A. Paul, who served for 24 years, and Elder Elias Davis, who served for 14 years.

The first pastor was Elder Elias Davis, who served from 1834 until 1848. He was born on October 10, 1796, to Henry and Mary Davis in Bladen County. He is buried in the Old Saddletree Baptist Church cemetery in Robeson County. He resided in that community after he left Bladen County. Henry Davis, his father, was a Revolutionary War veteran. Elias Davis was ordained by the Lennon's Cross Roads Baptist Church on the second Monday in October, 1832, by Jesse Rogers and Philip Herrington. Jesse Rogers was pastor of the Mt. Pleasant Church in Bladen County (now the White Lake Baptist Church).<sup>20</sup> Elias was married to a woman known only as Lucy. He was baptized into the fellowship of the Lennon's Cross Roads Church in 1828. He was ordained an Elder and Evangelist. He served as pastor of Lennon's Cross Roads Church from 1842 until 1852, for 10 years. When the Robeson Baptist Union was organized in 1832, he was appointed to preach the introductory sermon. For many years he was most active in this union. He was also an agent and missionary for the Baptist State Convention in the year 1835. He was appointed to do itinerant mission service for a six month period in the fourth section of the convention, covering the counties of Brunswick, Columbus, Bladen, Sampson, and Robeson Counties. For his labors he was paid \$60.00. He served Hickory Grove Church at the time he was working for the Baptist State Convention. Some of the other churches he served were Big Branch Church (now Orrum Baptist Church), Saddletree Church, Lennon's Cross Roads in Columbus County, Raft Swamp Church in Robeson County. He died on May 26, 1880, at the age of 84 years. He is the great, great, great uncle of the writer of this history.<sup>21</sup>



The second pastor of Hickory Grove Church was Elder Isham Stone. He served the church from 1848 to 1853, for a period of 7 years. He was born in 1805 in Robeson County. He served the Mt. Elim Baptist Church in Robeson County from 1843 to 1851, and from 1853 to 1856, and from 1858 to 1869. He also served the Orrum Baptist Church (then Big Branch Church) from 1843 or before, until 1851, then from 1853 to 1856, and from 1858 to 1869.

The third pastor of Hickory Grove Church was Haynes Lennon, a man who stood tall for Christ in his day. He was popular in Bladen and Robeson Counties, in the Cape Fear Association and the Baptist State Convention. He was pastor at Hickory Grove from 1853 to 1855. He was a missionary pastor, appointed by the North Carolina Baptist State Convention, and at one time had charge of several congregations. He served for six years as pastor of the Lumberton Baptist Church in Robeson County. He also served the Antioch Church in Robeson County, among the many others. He was ordained by the Lennon's Cross Roads Baptist Church. A movement is now underway to restore his home located in Columbus County.

The fourth pastor of Hickory Grove was Furney Prevatte. He was pastor from 1855 to 1862, a period of seven years. He was the son of Thomas Prevatt (1764-1843) and Sally West Prevatt (1771-1853). He was born on the Old Field Swamp, near the present town of Fairmont, N. C., on June 30, 1808, and he died in Robeson County on May 28, 1895. He is buried in the old Prevatte cemetery near the Clybonville Baptist Church, which he founded. He married, first, Telitha Bullock of Robeson County, and secondly, a Sarah Nichols. He was one of the pioneer preachers in Robeson and Bladen and other surrounding counties. He assisted in the organization of many churches. He was a good leader and a strong preacher and often in demand at the associational meetings.<sup>22</sup> He too is a great, great, great, great uncle of this historian.

The fifth pastor of Hickory Grove Church was Elder Elias Davis Johnson. He served the church for thirty years, from 1862 to 1892. He was the son of Samuel Johnson and Sarah Davis Johnson. He was born on August 6, 1828, at Hickory Grove, and died on February 7, 1893, near the Great Marsh Baptist Church, which he founded. He is buried in the church cemetery near St. Pauls, N. C. He received his name from his uncle, Elias Davis, who was the first pastor of the church. He was married to Sara Caroline Humphrey of the Saddletree Baptist Church Community. His family is buried in the old cemetery in front of Hickory Grove Church. At the age of 17 he was baptized into the fellowship of Hickory Grove Church by the Reverend McFall. He was ordained to the gospel ministry in the year 1855, at the Raft Swamp Church in Robeson County, by Elder Furney Prevatte and Isham Stone, both who served before him at Hickory Grove Church. He served the Hickory Grove congregation for thirty years, until his sickness prevented him from preaching. His education was



limited but he was apt and quick to learn. As a preacher, he was popular and always had every Sunday engaged during his ministry. He preached in Robeson, Bladen, Cumberland, Sampson, and Columbus Counties. He was pastor of the Raft Swamp Baptist Church when Robeson Association was organized there in 1882. He was also pastor of the Cedar Creek Baptist Church of Cumberland County when the Cedar Creek Association was organized at that church. His old home still stands near the Great Marsh Church near St. Pauls, N. C. At least seven of his descendants have become ministers. He is the great grandfather of the writer of this history. His brother, Ewen Johnson, gave part of the land upon which Hickory Grove Church was built. <sup>23</sup>

On November 26, 1892, the church called Elder J. G. Fisher as the pastor. He served the church from 1892 until November of 1896. He also served from 1899 to 1900.

Reverend E. W. Wooten served the church from 1897 to 1899.

Reverend W. S. Ballard served the church from 1900 to 1902.

Reverend R. L. Byrd served the church from 1902 to 1908. The minutes of the church state that he was given an indefinite call as pastor with the understanding that, in case either the church or the pastor became dissatisfied--the one dissatisfied should give the other one month's notice. The church rescinded the order in April, 1908, and decided to use the annual call again. Mr. Byrd was a native of the Tolarsville community of Robeson County.

On October 4, 1908, Reverend J. M. Fleming of Lumberton, N. C., was called as pastor. He served for only a few months, for on December 26, 1908, Mr. Fleming stated that he had been called to the pastorate at East Lumberton Baptist Church, and asked to be released from his obligation to Hickory Grove.

Reverend R. M. Hilburn was called on December 26, 1908, to become the pastor. He served until 1909. He was called again as pastor in October of 1912, and served until 1913.

In November, 1909, Reverend A. H. Porter was called as pastor and he served until 1912.

In November, 1913, Reverend R. S. Lennon became the pastor, and stayed until October, 1914, when he resigned to attend the Seminary. Mr. Lennon came out of the Lennon's Cross Roads Church. He served in pastorates over North Carolina and retired to live in the town of Wake Forest, N. C., where he died and is buried. His wife, Leta, is presently a resident in the North Carolina Baptist Home in Winston Salem. He has three sons, Reverend Judson Lennon, who is serving presently as missionary





to the Far East; Reverend John Lennon, who is serving presently as a pastor in Virginia; and Joseph Lennon, who is Administrator of the McCain Sanatorium at McCain, N. C. Mr. Lennon was a man who dearly loved the Lord and faithfully served him until his health failed him.

In November, 1914, Reverend R. N. Cashwell became the pastor and served until 1921, for a period of 7 years.

On September 24, 1921, Reverend W. D. Pridgen was called as pastor. He stayed until 1925. His son, Rev. Lee Pridgen, assisted in a revival at Hickory Grove in 1924.

Reverend E. A. Paul was called as pastor on November 1, 1925. He served the church for 24 years as pastor and was well beloved by the people. He served also the Antioch Church in Robeson County and the East Lumberton Baptist Church. He was pastor at East Lumberton Church when he died. He is buried in the Hollywood Cemetery in Lumberton. His wife lives presently in the Godwin Heights Community in Lumberton. On September 12, 1926, Hickory Grove agreed to cooperate with Mr. Paul's other churches in the purchase of an automobile for him to use. He used this car until his death. On June 9, 1928, Hickory Grove Church voted to cooperate with Mr. Paul's other churches in sending him to the Baptist World Alliance at Toronto, Canada. Reverend Paul passed to his reward on January 28, 1949.

Reverend R. A. Stankwytych was called as pastor on April 17, 1949. He served as pastor until October 20, 1951. He presently lives in the Hickory Grove community.

Reverend Robert L. Edwards served the church from 1951 until 1955.

Reverend T. H. Lambert served the church from 1955 until 1957.

Reverend J. C. Shaw served the church from 1957 to 1961.

Reverend Steve Hora served the church for the period of a year, 1961.

Reverend Robert E. Carter served the church from 1961 to 1964.

Reverend Leroy Trevathan served the church from 1965 to 1968.

Reverend Bruce Lanier began serving the church in 1969.

Hickory Grove Church even came to the rescue, one time, of an itinerant preacher. The minutes for May Conference, 1854, tell of the church taking up an offering to aid "Brother Elder P. C. Conely in getting him another horse, as his horse had gotten cripple in traveling as an itinerant with us this year." Eight dollars was collected.





## THE STORY OF THE APOCRYPHA

The September Conference of 1912 records that Rev. James Hester of St. Pauls, N. C., assisted the pastor in revival services at Hickory Grove.

On May 24, 1968, this writer received a letter from Rev. Hester, who now resides at Long Beach, California, in which Mr. Hester tells of the experience he had during this revival, when he assisted Rev. A. H. Porter. It was his second sermon in the revival and on Sunday morning. He says he had never heard of the Apocrypha before this service. He had arrived late by train from Lumberton to Richardson. Someone was there to carry him by horse and buggy to the church. The horse was none too swift. He arrived late at the church, rushed into the pulpit, asked for a hymn, opened the Bible to read the Scripture lesson, and behold, found himself entangled in the books of the Apocrypha. He asked the congregation to please sing another hymn. He then got out of the Apocrypha and discovered the passage he was looking for at first. Mr. Hester said, "The Apocrypha frightened me. I had never seen it before. You can imagine how frightened I was to find that I had come to an entirely new group of books in the Bible. I wonder if that same Bible is in that church to this day."

This Bible is now on display in the community house. It was bought by Elias Davis Johnson when he was pastor. The date in it is 1861, and it cost \$2.75.



## THE CIVIL WAR YEARS

Hickory Grove Church was most concerned about the troubled years of the War Between the States. A number of men from the Hickory Grove community had taken up arms and were fighting in battle.

In January of 1861, the conference records that the people of the church "agreed to meet on each Friday for a time of fasting and prayer to Almighty God that he would have mercy on our land and nation, and restore peace and harmony amongst our respective states."

The church was most concerned for the men from the community that had gone to war. In the July Conference of 1862, the church voted "that we keep Friday before the first Sabbath of the next month in request by the Robeson Union, as a day of fasting, prayer, and humiliation for our army in the confederate services." It was also agreed that "we meet on tomorrow at 10 o'clock at this church in prayer and thanksgiving to Almighty God for his protection and care over our sons, brethren and army in the past battles of our country and to protect them in the future from the enemies in this unholy war."

The church did not lose contact with the men who went away to war. In March Conference of 1863, it was ordered that "Rev. R. M. Sessoms be appointed to communicate to our brethren that were in the army by letter each month, so we can hear from them and they from us and learn how they are getting along in that far land."

The church's support did not end with fasting and prayer, for she provided some financial support. In October Conference of 1863, an appeal was made for funds for army colportage, and the sum of \$21.00 was received from the church in those difficult days when money was scarce, and sent to the Cape Fear Association to be used.

When Rev. Sessoms received word from someone, he would share the news with the church. In the July Conference of 1864, he reported two letters from soldiers in the army, stating that they had joined the church out there and been baptized and they wished to be received into fellowship with Hickory Grove Church. A report circulated that they were baptized by a Campbellite Baptist preacher. In the September Conference of 1864, Joseph Hester presented himself to the church and stated that he had been received and baptized in the army by a regular missionary Baptist, and wanted to be received into the fellowship of the church, though he had not gotten any certificate from the minister yet. He was received by his report of the matter.



## A MINISTER FROM THE CHURCH

In June, 1852, Brother R. M. Sessoms requested the church to grant him a license to preach and it was so granted. In the March Conference, the church ordered that he be ordained an evangelist minister of the gospel.

On May 17, 1856, the church ordained Robert M. Sessoms to preach the gospel. This day was set apart by the church as a day of fasting and prayer for Brother Sessoms and for a revival of true religion in the church.

Elder Sessoms was held in the highest esteem by the church. He was moderator of Central Union for the years 1891 and 1892. After his death in 1894, a monument was erected in the family cemetery on the South side of the Big Swamp, from collections taken from churches of the Central Union and from Zion's Tabernacle Baptist Church in Robeson County.



## A HEART FOR MISSIONS

Hickory Grove Church has always had a heart for missions. Her minutes show many offerings being taken up for the needy in the community, as well as for support of missionaries in the state, nation, and the world.

On April 16, 1887, a collection was taken up to raise funds to assist Brother Bryan in China to build a house. This amounted to \$2.00.

In 1907, a collection was taken for the famine in China, which amounted to \$7.47.

On July 21, 1906, the church voted to take up an offering to help the St. Joseph Church.

The church often carried the gospel to where the people were. On the night of September 18, 1895, the pastor and a number of the brethren met at the house of Brother Wm. Guyton, and held services and extended to him the right hand of fellowship. On May 23, 1896, the church met at the home of Sister Sophia Hester on Sunday morning, for the purpose of administering and communing with the said sister, who being old, was unable to visit the church.

The church has been a strong believer and supporter of Associational Missions; State, Home, and Foreign Missions; Christian Education; and the Orphanages. Almost every year you find the church contributing to these causes. In 1955, over 50% of the total receipts were designated for missions, \$2,936.39 out of receipts of \$5,202.93.





## NEGRO MEMBERSHIP

As was customary prior to the Civil War, Negro people were members of the church along with their masters. This was true at Hickory Grove from the time the church was organized until 1883. The church minute books list the names of the blacks. The blacks did not usually worship at the same time with the Masters, but had a special service apart for themselves.

In 1857, the Cape Fear Associational minutes mention that the church had 20 blacks out of a membership of 105. In 1874, the Cape Fear minutes record 13 blacks out of 162 members. In 1879, there were 4 Negroes out of 169 members.

In the January Conference of 1867, a black was dismissed from the membership for fornication, and another black was brought up for absentism, but was forgiven and allowed to remain a member. The black members were expected to abide by the church's rules and regulations as any of the white members and were disciplined alike.

In the July Conference of 1867, a Thomas Lewis, freedman, was accused of absence for the last three conferences. In the September Conference of 1868, a James Johnson, Negro, was accused of fornication. In the January Conference of 1870, a Negro man, Robert Evers, acknowledged getting into a foray and saying things he ought not to have said.

In the May Conference of 1871, a Negro sister, Hannah Singletary, was called before the conference. In this same conference, some of the Negro brethren requested letters to constitute a church, and the church granted the letters of some Negro brethren and sisters in good standing.

In the July Conference, 1871, several Negro members were restored to fellowship and then granted letters to unite with the new Negro Baptist Church, known as the "Bryant Swamp Church". In August Conference, 1871, letters were granted to several Negro families who were constituting a church near Mr. Neal McGills. This was the second Negro church constituted. It was called "Hester Church".

In Conference on March 27, 1880, a Negro sister was granted a letter to join a new Negro Baptist church. On October 1, 1883, the church listed one Negro member on the church roll. Also on October 1, 1884, one Negro member was listed. On November 20, 1886, a letter was granted to the last Negro person, James Lewis, to join the "New Bethelite Church".



### EARLY DEACONS

Joseph Wood was the first deacon of the church, elected at the organization in August, 1834.

R. M. Sessoms was ordained a deacon in June, 1851. He gave this up after being ordained a minister.

Ewen Johnson and Hilary Pate were ordained deacons in July, 1860.

J. K. Singletary and Furney Davis were ordained deacons in September, 1878.

C. D. Kinlaw, R. C. R. Sessoms, and John W. Hester were ordained as deacons on Wednesday, September 26, 1894. The church rescinded the deaconship from John W. Hester when he joined the Free Will Baptist Church.

On August 27, 1904, James N. Singletary and Joseph Sessoms were elected deacons and ordained in September, 1905.

In July, 1905, L. P. Singletary and Seth Lewis were elected as deacons and were ordained in September, 1905.

In July, 1919, Roy Hester and C. W. Allen were elected as deacons and were ordained in September, 1919.



## CLERKS

The records of Hickory Grove Church have been well preserved through the years. This speaks well of the clerks who have faithfully served the church. The following have served in this capacity:

James B. Singletary	(1834-1836)
Harmon Singletary	(1836-1839)
John Ward	(1839-1843)
Ewen Johnson	(1843-1873)
L. P. Singletary	(1873-1876)
Wm. R. Davis	(1876-1877)
Ewen Johnson	(1877-1880)
George W. Jones	(1880-1892)
G. F. Allen	(1892-1900)
Seth Lewis	(1900-1950)
Elden G. Hester	(1950-1954)
M. M. Hester	(1954-1955)
Coy Hickman	(1955-1958)
Elden G. Hester	(1958-1959)
Seth F. Lewis	(1959-1960)
Elden G. Hester	(1961-1969)

Seth Lewis served the church as clerk longer than any other man, from 1900 until 1950. He also served as clerk of the Central Union from 1918 until 1926, and from 1922 until 1948 he served as the clerk of Bladen Baptist Association.

Ewen Johnson served as clerk for 34 years. In the June Conference of 1869, Mr. Johnson stated that he would be glad if they would relieve him from acting as clerk for the church, as he was getting old and dim sighted. They did not dismiss him.

When Hickory Grove was organized in 1834, there were 33 charter members. In 1857, there were 105 members. The largest membership was 239, in 1958.



## TREASURERS

The first known Treasurer was Ewen Johnson, who served from 1843 until 1873, and from 1877 to 1880, for a total of 34 years. Others having served have been:

L. P. Singletary  
G. W. Jones  
Wm. R. Davis  
J. W. Singletary  
E. J. Lewis  
J. M. Sessoms  
G. F. Allen  
Dillon A. Butler  
Roy Hester  
Leon Edge  
Maurice Hester  
Mitchell Hester

Mr. Roy Hester served as treasurer for a period of over 40 years.

The first record of gifts was \$10.00 in 1857, to missions. The receipts for 1968 amounted to \$10,381, with \$2,504 going to missions. The pastor's salary has increased from \$58.90 in 1870, to \$2,800 in 1968.





## MUSIC

Music played an important part in the life of the church. The people sang with fervor and certainly this added to the preaching services. After each revival, the clerk mentioned in the records the zeal and inspiration of the meeting.

At first, the church had no musical instruments to accompany the singing. The Conference for February 26, 1910, elected Sister Bertha Butler as the church organist. This was the old style pump organ, which could drain a person today of his energies in a few minutes. In November, 1911, Sister L. Singletary was elected church organist.

On December 27, 1924, the church agreed to buy a piano.

On August 25, 1894, the church voted for Jas. N. Singletary and J. C. Sessoms to distribute the hymnbooks among the congregation, and to take them up at the close of the services.

The greatest single contribution made to all phases of church music has probably been made by Althea Lewis as church pianist for over forty-three years. On November 6, 1966, a special day was held to honor her continuing contribution. On this day a picnic dinner was served, in addition to regular services. Individual gifts, a love offering, and a plaque were presented to her. The plaque was inscribed:

"In Recognition of Althea Lewis by Hickory Grove Baptist Church for Faithful and Dedicated Service for More than Forty Years as Pianist Without Remuneration. Your Service Has Added Beauty and Dignity to the Worshipfulness of Hickory Grove Baptist Church and the Glory of God. In Recognition of This Service, November 6, 1966 is Proclaimed Althea Lewis Day."

Althea Lewis continues to serve the church as pianist.



## A READING SCHOOL

In the early days of the history of Hickory Grove, the people living around the church were able to get some public education, and the church house was often used for teaching purposes.

A "Reading School" subscription for the Hickory Grove Meeting House is available, that is dated July 22, 1837. It reads as follows:

"We the undersigned do employ Archibald Kelly to teach School three months, viz: Spelling, Reading, Writing and common Arithmetic, for the sum of two dollars and fifty cents per Scholar, or the sum annexed to our names at the consumation of the time above mentioned. The said Kelly obligates himself to pay due attention to the School and Scholars, he also to find himself Board during the School. 22nd July, 1838.

<u>Subscribers</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Scholars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Cents</u>
Jos. Wood		4		Paid in full.	Settled by note.
Wm White		4		Paid in full	by cash
Ewen Johnson		1		Paid in full	by cash
David Guiton		1		Paid in full	by cash
David Singletary		3		Paid in full	by cash
Stephen Hester		1	\$2.50		
E. Hester		1		Recd. payment in full	
Richd. M. Lewis		4		Recd. payment in full	
Joseph Hester		1		Judgmented 3rd Apr. 1840.	
				Geo. Cromartie, J. P.	
Samuel Johnson		1		Paid in full	
Joseph J. Nance		1		Paid in full	
Haynes Singletary		1		Paid in full	by cash
Hannah Callahan		1	\$2.25	Settled	cr. for 60 cts. Paid

A Reading School Subscription for the Hickory Grove Meeting House. Written this 22nd day of July, A. D. 1837."



## THE CENTENNIAL OBSERVANCE

On June 9, 1934, it was agreed by the church to "observe a homecoming day to celebrate the 100th year of the existence of the church on the 4th Sunday in August." Brethren Roy Hester and Fred Nance were appointed to make arrangements for the day.

On August 26, 1934, the One-hundredth Anniversary of Hickory Grove Church was observed, in which the devotional service was conducted by J. F. Hilburn. Seth Lewis gave the address of welcome. A. M. Kelly taught the Sunday School lesson. Rev. R.N. Cashwell preached the anniversary sermon. Rev. E. A. Paul presided over the service. The history of the denomination was given by Rev. R. L. Byrd, and the history of the church was given by R. J. Hall. Some remarks were made by W. D. Pridgen. Music was furnished by choirs from Cedar Grove, West Lumberton, St. Pauls, and White Oak.

The church may look back over long years of service to the community and the world. It can be challenged by the devotion and faith of many who have gone on before. It can learn through the mistakes and trials of the past. The church may also choose, through renewed consecration to Jesus Christ, a future of greater service to God and man. It may well pray with the hymn writer:

"God of grace and God of glory

On Thy people pour Thy power;

Crown Thine ancient church's story;

Bring her bud to glorious flower.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,

For the facing of this hour."



CHURCH ROLL NO. I

BRETHREN

- |                                   |                                |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Elias Davis, Pastor            | 43. Elias Edwards              |
| 2. Joseph Wood, Deacon            | 44. Ephraim Hester             |
| 3. James B. Singletary, Clerk     | Restored 1862                  |
| 4. Josiah Singletary, decd 1843   | 45. Edmond Hester              |
| 5. Elias Edwards                  | 46. Nelson Kindld, Dec. 1868   |
| 6. John Ward                      | 47. David Singletary, Dec.     |
| 7. John Wilkins                   | Sept. 5, 1861                  |
| 8. Allen Edwards                  | 48. Alford Pernell             |
| 9. William C. Sikes               | 49. John W. Munrow             |
| 10. William Wood, Jr.             | 50. Archibald White, Dec.      |
| 11. Harmon Singletary             | Sept. 1862                     |
| 12. Matthew Hester                | 51. E. D. Kellaham             |
| 13. Edward White                  | 52. Abraham Edwards            |
| 14. William Evers, Senr.          | 53. Danile Johnson             |
| 15. William Wood, Senr.           | 54. James Pate                 |
| 16. Isaac Davis                   | 55. John Butler                |
| 17. Robert Hendren                | 56. Joseph Hester, Dec.        |
| 18. Chas Stone, dec. July 15,     | August 1856                    |
| 1853                              | 57. Willis Allen               |
| 19. Joseph Singletary, decd 1842  | 58. H. H. Hilburn              |
| 20. Ewen Johnson                  | 59. Robert Hales               |
| 21. John B. Ward                  | 60. Henovy Hilborn             |
| 22. Jonathon Singletary,          | 61. Stethen Edwards            |
| decd 1865                         | 62. David Hester               |
| 23. John Pate                     | 63. Hilary Pate, Dec. April    |
| 24. Abraham Edwards               | 1861                           |
| 25. Roling Edwards                | 64. Travis Edwards, Dec. 1864  |
| 26. Ephraign Hester               | 65. Stephen Pate, Dec. 1865    |
| 27. Duncan Callahan               | 66. Lewis Hester               |
| 28. Edward Singletary             | 67. John M. Edwards            |
| 29. John McLain                   | 68. Joseph Hester, Jr.         |
| 30. Daniel M. Nance               | 69. J. C. Wilson               |
| 31. Robert M. Sessoms             | 70. Travis Singletary          |
| 32. John Bryan                    | 71. John C. Freeman            |
| 33. Isham Cain                    | 72. D. W. Nance                |
| 34. William C. Sikes              | 73. Wm. J. Edwards, Decd. 1869 |
| 35. J. G. Freeman                 | 74. Owen Harmons, Dec. 1862    |
| 36. John Bryan                    | 75. John W. McGill             |
| 37. James Cain                    | 76. James Edwards              |
| 38. Duncan Singletary, decd. 1848 | 77. John E. Nance              |
| 39. George Wilson                 | 78. James Britt                |
| 40. Elias Johnson                 | 79. Council Green              |
| 41. G. W. Hester                  | 80. Snodon Hester              |
| 42. Hanes Edwards                 | 81. John T. Butler             |





BRETHREN

82.	Joseph Allen, Jr.	J. W. Singletary
83.	William R. Davis	Daniel White
84.	James Singletary, dec. August 1861	M. B. Singletary Calvin Ward
85.	Manon Bryant	Denis Storm
86.	Calvin Edwards, dec. 1862	Wm. R. Davis
87.	James Burney	James Britt
88.	Daniel Hester	Wm. B. Hester
89.	John Ward, dec. 1863	Wm. Johnson
90.	Luke Butler, dec. in Hospital, 1862	Rufus Alen Stephen Hester
91.	Roling Edwards	Aaron Hester
92.	James Johnson	John Pate
93.	David M. Singletary	John M. Pate
94.	A. Rigin	H--ony Hilborn, Dec. Jan. 1871
95.	J. W. Wilson, deceased in battle, 1862	Norel Singletary R. Butler
96.	Alford Edwards	L. V. Rotter
97.	Wright Edwards	Gomer White
98.	Calvin Hilborn	Hanes Sessoms
99.	Nelson Pate	
100.	Daniel Pate, dec. in prison at Elmire 1865	
101.	Jackson Kelyhan	
102.	Rubin Hester	
103.	Edward Pate, Dec. in battle 1862	
	J. M. Edwards	
	Wright Hester	
	G. G. King	
	Robert Edwards	
	Jesper Hester, Jr. Dec. 1865	
	Michal Dove	
	Joseph Hester, Jr.	
	J. L. Singletary	
	John D. Butler	
	Jesse Pate	
	Robt. E. Sessoms	
	Evander Singletary	
	N. R. Graves	
	David Pate	
	Simpson Edwards	
	Washington Edwards	
	Joshua K. Singletary	
	John Munce	



CHURCH ROLL NO. I.

SISTERS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Amy Evers                                     | 42. M. Storm                              |
| 2. Amelia Wood                                   | 43. Margaret Johnson, Dec. 1871           |
| 3. Nancy Singletary                              | 44. Ruth Ward                             |
| 4. Catharine Singletary                          | 45. Elender Edwards, Dec. 1857            |
| 5. Elender Ward, decd. 1851                      | 46. Emila Sikes                           |
| 6. Hannah Kellehan                               | 47. Sopha J. Sikes                        |
| 7. Sarah Wilkins                                 | 48. Charity Pate                          |
| 8. Margaret Singletary                           | 49. Abigail Singletary                    |
| 9. Mary Edwards, Senr.                           | 50. Dorotha Freeman                       |
| 10. Mary Edwards, Jr.                            | 51. Mary Nance, Dec. June 1855            |
| 11. Sarah Johnston, Decd. Decem.<br>1863         | 52. Patience Hester                       |
| 12. Susannah Wood                                | 53. Sarah Hester, dead November<br>1852   |
| 13. Sarah Jane Wood                              | 54. Sealy McCain                          |
| 14. Sarah Singletary                             | 55. Cathern Ann Cain                      |
| 15. Sarah Ann Singletary                         | 56. Deborah Singletary,<br>decd. May 1856 |
| 16. Sarah Ann White                              | 57. Edith McLelland                       |
| 17. Penelope Edwards                             | 58. Mary Ann Singletary                   |
| 18. Mary Hesters, Senr. Dead<br>May 1846         | 59. Elizabeth J. Johnson                  |
| 19. Mary Hester, Jr.                             | 60. Catharine Nance                       |
| 20. Sophia Hester                                | 61. Jane McLelland                        |
| 21. Edy Davis                                    | 62. Susan White                           |
| 22. Orpy Parker                                  | 63. Sarah Ward                            |
| 23. Martha Hester                                | 64. Jane Sikes                            |
| 24. Amelia Freeman                               | 65. Judina Sikes                          |
| 25. Sarah Wilson                                 | 66. Hariett Singletary                    |
| 26. Mary McGee                                   | 67. Mary Jane Cain                        |
| 27. Nancy Sikes, dead July 1839                  | 68. J---y Ann Bryant                      |
| 28. Amelia Hendren, dead 1835                    | 69. Eliza Wilson, Dec. 1859               |
| 29. Civil Thompson                               | 70. Familier Simson                       |
| 30. Anna Ivey                                    | 71. Mary Hester, Jr.                      |
| 31. Spicea Cain                                  | 72. Gainer Nance                          |
| 32. Eunice Sikes                                 | 73. Kisiah Hester                         |
| 33. Nancy Sikes, decd. May 1857                  | 74. Linorah Edwards                       |
| 34. Mary Allen                                   | 75. Mary Ann Johnson                      |
| 35. July Ann Sikes                               | 76. Kisiah Edwards                        |
| 36. Saly Singletary                              | 77. Mary Ann Pernell                      |
| 37. Jemimah Storm, dead Nov. 1840                | 78. Mary Smith, dec. June 1855            |
| 38. Sarah Sikes                                  | 79. Sophia Sikes                          |
| 39. Jerisha Hester                               | 80. Sarah Caroline Johnson                |
| 40. Elizabeth Ann Singletary,<br>dead April 1852 | 81. Casady Cain                           |
| 41. Jey bailee Bryan                             | 82. Anny M. Kellyhan                      |
|  | 83. Milbony Pate                          |



SISTERS

84.	Mary McGee	Penelopy Thompson, dec. 1863
85.	Elizabeth Edwards	Elizabeth Hester
86.	Sarah Hales	Lucy Ward
87.	Sarah J. Sessoms	Hariett B. Singletary
88.	Hannah Lewis, Dec. 1868	Virgina Alen
89.	Nancy Allen	Polly Ann Pate
90.	Emila Hilborn	Civil Dove
91.	Rebecca Ann Wilson	Moley Jane Hester
92.	Anny McLain	Meridby Pate
93.	Caroline Hester	Margaret Dove
94.	Milissa Pate	Sarah Singletary
95.	Mary Guyton	Caroline Munce
96.	Anny Edwards	Mary Ann King
97.	Feby Sikes	Margaret Green
98.	Emila Sikes	Helen Evers
99.	Rachal Hester	Caroline Hester
100.	Poll Ann Sikes	Naney Monroe
101.	Alis F. Hester	Nepsy Briant
102.	Helon Singletary	Moley Jane Johnson
103.	Cidney Edwards	Lucy Johnson
104.	Sarepta Johnson	Clavy Jane Pate
105.	Eliza Singletary	Emily Pate
106.	Joanne Singletary, dec. August 11, 1861	Mary Jane Jones
107.	Polly Ann Edwards	Jane Victory Sikes
	Polly Singletary	Narcisa Butler
	Elizabeth Ann Butler	Rhoda Edwards
	Francis Butler	Lucy Ann Edwards
	Nepsy White	Lucy Butler
	Caroline Pate	Elizabeth Ann Johnson
	Mary C. F. Singletary	Emiline Johnson
	Elizabeth Britt	Lucy Ann Singletary
	Caroline Nance	Nancy Hilborn
	Sarah Briant	Elender Hilborn
	Nancy Evers	Sarah Ann Hilborn
	Susany Britt	Elvy Pate
	Sarah Hester	Mary Ann Briant
	Sarah Singletary	Mary Jane Hilborn
	Mary Ann Johnson	Martha Green
	Elizabeth Johnson	Polly A. Hester
	Marthy Hester	Sally Butler
	Elizabeth Guyton	Elmina Sessoms
	Margaret Jane Alen	Allas A. Hester
	Emaline Hester	Esey Ann Green
	Appy Edwards	Ferdila Pate
	Susana Guyton	Sally Sessoms
		Anny Grey



SISTERS

Joylealy Monts  
Anny M. Kellyhan  
Carolina Singletary  
Margaret J. Alen  
Levey Butler  
Saly Butler  
Elizabeth Monroe  
Emiline Edwards  
Margaret Sessoms  
Cathrin Davis  
Cathrine Singletary  
Mary Ann Singletary  
Anny July Edwards  
Jamiah Kinlaw  
Charity Pate  
Amelia Hester  
Eliza King  
Mary C. Mercer  
Sarah Ann Alen  
Mary Mercer  
Mary Ann Lewis  
Sely Hester  
Elinder Pait  
Sally Edwards  
Rosa Ann McLain  
Mary Jane Nance  
Martha Nance  
Sally King  
Renny Pate  
Elizabeth Pate  
Melinda McLain  
Hanah Ann Edwards  
Edith M. Butler  
Elizabeth Mercer  
Theddockia Mercer  
Elizabeth White  
Sarah A. Nance  
Sarah A. Hester  
E. K. McK. Singletary  
Rachel Johnson  
Saly M. Lewis





"LIST OF THOSE WHO PAID FOR BENEVOLENT PURPOSES IN 1859  
AT THE H. GROVE CH."

"Names of those who have paid for the above purpose"  
(Pastor's Services)

John Butler	January	\$ 3.00	Daniel Pate
Wm. H. Porter	March	\$ 3.00	D J. Kellyhan
James Edwards	May	\$ 1.00	Wm. G. Edwards
Wm. C. Sikes	May	\$ 1.00	David M. Singletary
Alen Edwards	May	\$ 2.00	Alford Edwards
G. W. Hester	May	\$ 1.00	Wright Edwards
J. W. Monroe	May	\$ 1.00	Nelson Pate
James Singletary	May	\$ 1.00	James Johnson
Joseph Hester, Sr.	June	\$ 1.00	Snowdon Hester
J. C. Butler	June	\$ 1.00	E. D. Kellyhan
Ewen Johnson	June	\$10.00	
Gilmore Edwards	June	\$ .50	
Daniel Hester	June	\$ 2.00	
David Singletary	August	\$ 5.00	
Ephraim Hester	July	\$10.00	
Helory Pate	July	\$ 1.50	
James Pate	July	\$ 1.00	
Wm. R. Davis	July	\$ 1.00	
Willis Alen	July	\$ 1.50	
G. E. Nance	July	\$ .50	
Travis W. Singletary	July	\$ 1.00	
David Hester	July	\$ 1.00	
Calvine Edwards	July	\$ 1.00	
James C. Britt	July	\$ 1.00	
Wm. S. Lewis	July	\$ 1.50	
Joseph Hester, Jr.	July	\$ .50	
Stephen Edwards	August	\$ 2.00	
Travis Edwards	August	\$ 2.00	
John B. Ward	August	\$ 1.00	
Archibald White	August	\$ 1.00	
Edmond Hester	August	\$ 1.00	
H. F. Hilburn	August	\$ 1.00	
Nelson Kinlaw	August	\$ .50	
David Singletary	August	\$ 5.00	
Daniel Johnson	August	\$ 1.00	
Hanah Lewis	August	\$ 4.00	
Rev. R. M. Sessoms	August	-----	
Wm. Rising	August	\$ 2.00	
Joseph Allen, Jr.	August	\$ 1.00	
John Ward	August	\$ 1.00	
J. G. Freeman	August	\$ .50	
Jonathon Singletary	September	\$ 2.00	



DEATHS

(Taken from Church Roll - 1875-1900)

Snodown Singletary, died April 16th, 1880

Cathrine Nance, died March 12, 1884

Mary Lennon, dec. Janu 15, 1879

Mibery Pait, dec. Jan. 21, 1879

Sarah Hester, died March 5th, 1884

Mantha J. Bryan, died June 26, 1885

Mary A. Singletary, died August 18th, 1884

Elizabeth Stubbs, died July 20, 1884

(This church roll was incomplete. A revised church roll was made in 1886)



CHURCH ROLL FOR 1886

Sophia Hester (died - Oct. 14th, 1897)  
Abigail Singletary (died November 20th, 1897)  
Celia McLean  
Elizabeth J. Butler (died 1888)  
Harriett Willis  
Kesiah White (Dismissed Sept. 24th, 1892)  
Sarah J. Singletary  
Phebery Hammonds  
Helen Hester  
Elizabeth Singletary  
Elizabeth A. Butler  
Nepsy White (died November 27th, 1887)  
Helen McLean Guyton  
Patience C. Singletary (dismissed July 26th, 1890)  
Sarah Bryan  
Elizabeth Davis (dismissed July 27th, 1889)  
Sarah E. Singletary  
Elizabeth Edwards (dismissed Oct. 21st, 1893)  
Catharine Hester (dismissed Feb. 24th, 1894)  
Comfort Wilson (dismissed Sept. 24th, 1892)  
Margaret Graves (dismissed Sept. 15th, 1888)  
Mary A. Bryan  
Moley J. Davis  
Clarrisa J. Ward (dismissed Sept. 21st, 1899)  
Emilar Evers (dismissed Aug. 23rd, 1890)  
Mary J. Jones  
Narcissus Sikes  
Lucy A. Edwards  
Elizabeth A. Edwards  
Nancy Hilburn (dismissed Nov. 26, 1892)  
Emeline Edwards (excluded Oct. 16th, 1886)  
Sarah A. White (dismissed Sept. 21, 1889)  
Mary J. Byrd (dismissed Nov. 21st, 1891)  
Mary A. Bryan  
Martha Evers  
Mary A. Johnson  
Elmira White  
Escy A. Evers  
Sarah Sessoms  
Anna M. Kellihan  
Caroline Singletary (dismissed July 26, 1890)  
Catharine Singletary  
Sarah A. Allen  
Molly Lewis Regan (dismissed July 27th, 1895)  
Sarah C. Edwards  
Mary J. Stubbs  
Sally Brisson  
Elizabeth Pait



Church Roll for 1886, continued.

Edith M. Hester  
Elizabeth Butler  
Elizabeth Edwards  
Sarah A. Hester (dismissed March 19th, 1898)  
Polly Singletary  
Eley McK. Singletary  
Sally L. Lewis Shipman (dismissed Dec. 11th, 1897)  
Rachel Johnson  
A J. Edwards  
Harriett B. Edwards  
Sally Edwards  
Clarisa J. Lewis Smith  
Olive Hester (dismissed June 27th, 1891)  
Catharine J. Singletary  
Eliza F. Davis (died Dec. 19th, 1888)  
Melissa Cashwell  
Mary A. Singletary  
Mary A. Nance  
Mary C. Brisson (dismissed May 21, 1892)  
Nepsy Pait (dismissed Aug. 23rd, 1890)  
Celia Edwards (dismissed Sept. 24th, 1892)  
Mary Singletary  
Dellar A. Humphrey (dismissed Sept. 1894)  
Fanny E. Taylor  
Susan Hammonds  
Rhoda A. Edwards  
Sally Edwards Davis  
Joina L. Nance  
Martha J. Butler (dismissed Dec. 27th, 1890)  
Martha A. Kinlaw  
Sarah A. Singletary (dismissed April 10th, 1897)  
Cornelia Allen  
Mary J. Gooden  
Sarah F. Stubbs  
H. M. Sessoms  
Mary R. Nance  
Lucy Lycipsia Hester  
Ganah Nance (died Jany 7th, 1896)  
Orry Blackburn  
Moley Jane Edwards  
Helen S. Sessoms (died April 19th, 1898)  
Sarah E. Byrd (dismissed Nov. 21st, 1891)  
Civil Deaver (dismissed Oct. 16th, 1886)  
Annie Evers  
Edny Ann Allen  
Elizabeth A. Jones  
Emma E. Jones  
Laura J. Sessoms





Church Roll for 1886, continued.

A. E. Singletary  
Sarah M. Johnson Singletary  
Laura E. Goodwin (dismissed August 18th, 1888)  
Celia F. Hester  
Harriet Carrol (dismissed March 17th, 1888)  
Celia A. Bryan  
Margaret C. Butler  
Joana Singletary McDonald  
M. A. Pitman (dismissed May 21st, 1892)  
E. J. Pate (dismissed Apr. 25th, 1891)  
Florence Pitman (dismissed May 21st, 1892)  
Mantha Hester  
Edith R. Hester  
Sally Lewis Kinlaw (married May 5th, 1895)  
Mary A. Hester (dismissed March 22nd, 1890)  
Ida F. Sessoms  
Annie F. Edwards  
Sally L. Edwards Davis  
Caroline Johnson  
Majara C. Nance Jordan (dismissed Dec. 16th, 1899)  
Mary B. Graves Evers  
Millie J. Monroe  
Lucy K. Monroe Singletary (dismissed Jany. 9th, 1897)  
Dora Hester  
Fanny B. Singletary  
Margaret K. Singletary  
Mary L. Sessoms (died July 21st, 1900)  
Mary E. Singletary Kinaw  
Sarah C. Singletary  
Sarah J. Sessoms  
Emiline Hester  
Mary C. Mercer  
D. F. Singletary  
M. R. Lewis  
Mary A. Kinlaw  
Adline Guyton  
M. A. King (dismissed Oct. 2nd, 1890)  
Mariah Stubbs (dismissed Nov. 22nd, 1890)  
M. E. Roberts  
Lucy Singletary  
Florence Singletary  
Mantha Singletary  
Caroline Allen  
Elvetor Dowless  
Fannie Hester  
Appie Edwards (dismissed Nov. 21st, 1892)  
Fanie Nance  
Katie Stubb Williferd  
A. E. Hammonds



Church Roll for 1886, continued.

Susan J. Sessoms  
Annie D. Singletary  
A. O. Singletary  
E. K. Singletary  
Alice J. Bryan (dismissed March 24th, 1894)  
M. A. Dove (dismissed July 21st, 1894)  
S. M. Dove (dismissed by letter July 21st, 1894)  
Lucy E. Dove (dismissed July 21st, 1894)  
P. E. Kinlaw (dismissed Sept. 22nd, 1894)  
E. J. Edwards (by baptism Sept. 30th, 1894)  
S. E. White (by baptism Sept. 30th, 1894)  
Jimie P. Mercer Allen (dism. March 17th, 1900)  
P. C. Mercer (dismissed March 17th, 1900)  
M. M. Hester Williams (dismissed March 19th, 1898)  
Renna M. Herring (dismissed Jany. 26, 1895)  
Renna N. Hester (dismissed Jany. 26, 1895)  
M. A. King (dismissed June 23, 1895)  
Sally D. Singletary (by baptism Sept. 22nd, 1895)  
B. M. Singletary (by baptism Sept. 22nd, 1895)  
F. M. White (by baptism Sept. 22nd, 1895)  
L. M. Singletary (by baptism Sept. 22nd, 1895)  
Nora E. Sessoms Davis (by baptism Sept. 22nd, 1895)  
E. J. Singletary (by bapt. Oct. 4th, 1896)  
L. C. Singletary (by bapt. Oct. 4th, 1896)  
Della Kinlaw Lewis (by bapt. Sept. 19th, 1897)  
Mattie Kinlaw Hester (by bapt. Sept. 19th, 1897)  
Sallie A. B. Allen (by bapt. Sept. 19th, 1897)  
Lucy Lewis (by bapt. Sept. 19th, 1897)  
Delphia J. Hester (by letter March 19th, 1898)  
E. C. Lewis (by letter Feb. 11, 1898)  
E. J. Kinlaw Britt (by letter Feb. 11, 1898)  
Ema Jones by restoration Sept. 1896  
Susan F. Sessoms (by bapt. Sept. 22, 1899)  
Helon P. Sessoms (by bapt. Sept. 22, 1899)  
E. V. Singletary (by bapt. Sept. 22, 1899)  
May E. Singletary (by Bapt. Sept. 22, 1899)  
Queen E. Herring Bryan (Recd. by letter Jan. 1895. Dismissed  
March 1908)



CORRECTED LIST OF MALE MEMBERS FOR JANUARY 1, 1883

1. Robt. M. Sessoms (died Jany 23rd, 1894)
2. Ewen Johnson (died Feb. 17th, 1894)
3. Edmund Hester (died May 27th, 1894)
4. Daniel Johnson
5. John Butler
6. Daniel Hester (died Sept. 2nd, 1884)
7. James Pait (died Nov. 8th, 1892)
8. Stephen Edwards (died July 31st, 1884)
9. Alfred Edwards, Sr. (dismissed Oct. 21, 1893)
10. John L. Singletary
11. Robt. J. Sessoms (died November 16th, 1899)
12. J. K. Singletary (dismissed Aug. 22nd, 1885)
13. J. W. Singletary
14. M. B. Singletary
15. Wm. R. Davis (dismissed Sept. 18th, 1886)
16. Wm. M. Johnson
17. Thomas Hester (dismissed May 25th, 1895)
18. Marshall Pait (dismissed Aug. 23, 1890)
19. John W. Hester
20. John A. White
21. J. W. Sessoms
22. John T. Butler
23. D. A. Butler, Sr. (dismissed Dec. 27th, 1890)
24. Lewis T. Hester (dismissed June 27th, 1885)
25. Furney Davis (dismissed July 27th, 1889)
26. Wm. J. Evers (died January 24th, 1887)
27. J. L. Davis (dismissed July 26th, 1884)
28. Monroe Hester
29. Jas. N. Singletary
30. Joseph Sessoms
31. Narvel Singletary
32. James White
33. Haynes Sessoms
34. D. A. Pitman (dismissed Feb. 27th, 1886)
35. Seldon Singletary
36. F. A. Pait (dismissed Feb. 27th, 1886)
37. F. L. Nance
38. Riley Kinlaw
39. Jeremiah Sessoms
40. Colin Singletary
41. Randall Evers (dismissed Aug. 23rd, 1890)
42. L. P. Singletary
43. Roling Edwards (dismissed Sept. 27th, 1890)
44. Ed S. Lewis
45. Nathan Graves
46. D. H. Johnson
47. Marshall Singletary



Corrected List of Male Members for January 1, 1883, continued.

48. George W. Jones
49. Ralsey Edwards
50. Robt. J. Edwards (died Oct. 7th, 1895)
51. Jas. H. Rising (dismissed March 27th, 1886)
52. Asbury Hammonds
53. William E. Lewis
54. Alfred Edwards, Jr. (dismissed May 18th, 1888)
55. Alexander Edwards (dismissed Sept. 18th, 1886)
56. D. M. Singletary (dismissed Jany. 9th, 1897)
57. Wm. A. Butler (dismissed Sept. 26th, 1885)
58. Luther C. Davis (dismissed July 27th, 1889)
59. Henry S. Sessoms (dismissed Dec. 26th, 1896)
60. R. C. R. Sessoms
61. E. J. Lewis
62. E. F. Sessoms
63. E. W. Sessoms
64. C. T. Butler
65. Olin Pait (dismissed Feb. 27th, 1886)
- Charles Evers (dismissed Aug. 22nd, 1885)
- John J. Evers (dismissed Aug. 22nd, 1885)
- George E. Butler (dismissed March 17th, 1888)
- Narvel Singletary
- Robert W. Lewis (dismissed Nov. 17th, 1888)
- Jonathon Singletary (died Dec. 24th, 1891)
- N. B. Singletary (dismissed May 25th, 1889)
- W. I. Davis (dismissed Dec. 18th, 1886)
- O. L. Smith
- D. C. Singletary
- James Lewis (colored) (dismissed Nov. 20th, 1886)
- J. C. Sessoms
- E. C. Hester
- Hector B. Humphrey (dismissed March 17th, 1882)
- Olin Pait (dismissed Nov. 26th, 1892)
- C. R. Gooden
- Nathan Jones (died June 14th, 1900)
- G. F. Allen
- Charles W. Allen
- D. A. Pitman (dismissed May 21st, 1892)
- Willie Pitman (dismissed May 21st, 1892)
- D. A. Hester
- Jas. A. Hammond
- N. B. Singletary (dismissed Jany. 9th, 1897)
- W. R. Davis
- E. L. Singletary (Jany. 9th, 1897)
- W. H. Singletary (dismissed June 23rd, 1894)
- J. A. Singletary (dismissed August 21, 1894)
- Coy Byrd (dismissed Dec. 27th, 1890)
- Robt. E. L. Sessoms
- D. J. Alveson





Corrected List, continued.

Charley Allen (dismissed March 22nd, 1890)  
D. A. Butler, Jr.  
Jas. P. Mercer (dismissed March 17th, 1900)  
John W. King  
C. D. Kinlaw  
A. Roberts  
J. B. Allen  
Noah Mercer  
L. V. Hester  
Monroe Hester  
E. C. Hester  
Ephraim Singletary  
John Nance  
G. E. White  
E. White  
A. J. Hester (dismissed March 19th, 1898)  
G. V. Singletary  
Wm. Faircloth  
Thomas J. Edwards  
H. J. Israel (dismissed Jan. 20th, 1894)  
J. M. Hester (July 27th, 1895)  
Josiah Hester  
John W. King  
William Sessoms  
R. L. Guyton (by letter March 24th, 1894)  
C. E. Bryan (by letter June 23, 1894)  
M. S. Dove (by letter July 21st, 1894)  
C. A. Dove (by letter July 21st, 1894)  
A. G. Dove (by letter July 21st, 1894)  
F. A. Kinlaw (by letter Sept 22, 1894)  
Owen E. Herring (by letter Jan. 26, 1895)  
J. N. Herring (by letter Jan. 26, 1895)  
William Guyton (by baptism Aug. 25, 1895) (died Nov. 1895)  
L. C. Singletary (by baptism Sept. 22, 1895)  
J. C. Guyton (by baptism Sept. 22, 1895)  
J. F. Herring (by baptism Sept. 22, 1895)  
D. B. Bryan (by baptism Sept. 22, 1895)  
Joseph Nance (died April 6, 1896)  
Jas. L. Singletary (by letter March 13, 1897)  
Albert C. Herring (by baptism Sept. 19th, 1897)  
Walter N. Kinlaw (by baptism Sept. 19th, 1897)  
Seth Lewis (by baptism Sept. 19, 1897)  
Elias J. Johnson (by baptism Sept. 19th, 1897)  
Geo. Hester (by letter Jan. 15, 1898)  
J. A. Sessoms (by baptism Sept. 22, 1899)



OLD HICKORY GROVE CEMETERY

(Located across the highway from Hickory Grove Baptist Church)

DANIEL JOHNSON, Mar. 28, 1825 - July 12, 1903

MARY ANN BUTLER, wife of DANIEL JOHNSON, Nov. 20, 1820 - Dec. 28,  
1906, Aged 86 yrs, 1 mo, 8 dys.

G. W. HESTER, June 4, 1828 - Dec. 1, 1894

ALIFAIR, wife of G. W. HESTER, Aug. 3, 1832 - Apr. 30, 1893

REV. RUFUS M. HILBURN, Apr. 1, 1854 - June 29, 1929

LUCY C. HILBURN, Apr. 21, 1858 \_\_\_\_\_

EWEN JOHNSON, Nov. 11, 1817 - Feb. 17, 1894

RACHEL, wife of EWEN JOHNSON, July 6, 1836 - Feb. 16, 1907

LILLIE C., dau. of E. C. & E. R. HESTER, Jan. 22, 1913 - May 10, 1915

LULA Q., dau. of E. C. & E. R. HESTER, Dec. 7, 1915 - May 1, 1916

ELLA E. HESTER, Aug. 20, 1876 - Mar. 16, 1916

JNO. MCD. HESTER, Aug. 15, 1878 - Dec. 26, 1919. Killed in auto  
wreck.

DELILAH, wife of JNO. MCD. HESTER, July 11, 1892 - Dec. 27, 1917.  
Killed in auto wreck.

SAM HESTER, Nov. 1, 1903. Drowned in Jersey City, N.J. July 4, 1931.

CAREY, daughter of ELLA PEARDY, born May 3, 1896, Died May 6, 1896

INFANT, CLARENCE HESTER, born and died July 1925

ONA B. DAVIS, wife of DEWEY HESTER, Nov. 18, 1902 - Apr. 1, 1922

EDITH MARILLIA, wife of MONROE HESTER, Born June 22, 1855, Died  
Nov. 24, 1941

MONROE HESTER, July 30, 1852 - April 12, 1921

JAMES PAIT, Born Jan. 16, 1815, Died Nov. 18, 1892

MILBURY PAIT, wife of JAMES PAIT, Born May 16, 1816, Died Jan. 22,  
1879, Aged 63 yrs. 8 mos. 12 days.

(There are many graves without markers or with wooden markers.)



HICKORY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY

JASPER P. HICKMAN, Died Feb. 25, 1960, Age 94 years

LETTIE T. HICKMAN, Oct. 9, 1870 - Jan. 1940

PATSY, dau. of L. T. & ANNIE BRISSON, Mar. 28, 1945-Apr. 6, 1945

ELMA LEWIS WOODARD, Oct. 3, 1906 - Jan. 9, 1968

SETH LEWIS, Nov. 22, 1877 - Mar. 1, 1960

WADE H., son of WAITUS & ARIE HICKMAN, Mar. 20, 1922 - Sept. 22, 1936

DELIA KINLAW, wife of SETH LEWIS, Apr. 6, 1878 - Feb. 9, 1936

EDWARD J. LEWIS, son of MR. & MRS. SETH LEWIS, Dec. 28, 1908 -  
Nov. 22, 1924

J. L. SINGLETARY, Died Sept. 11, 1911, Aged 69 yrs., 11 mos., 23 days

ANNA B., wife of J. L. SINGLETARY, Mar. 10, 1836 - Feb. 27, 1904,  
Aged 67 yrs., 11 mos., 17 days

LONNIE G., son of W. G. & S. D. HAIRE, May 18, 1906 - Dec. 7, 1908

WILLIAM CLYDE HAIRE, May 21, 1880 - May 5, 1943

SALLIE D. SINGLETARY, wife of W. G. HAIRE, June 19, 1882 - Feb. 6, 1934

WEBB KNOX SINGLETARY, JR., Nov. 21, 1920 - Dec. 29, 1961

RUBY SINGLETARY, Died June 11, 1952

LAFAYETT SINGLETARY, son of MR. & MRS. W. K. SINGLETARY, Oct. 29, 1923 -  
Oct. 30, 1923

MINNIE CAMPBELL, wife of W. K. SINGLETARY, Oct. 28, 1892 - Jan. 13,  
1920.

ANNIE ELIZABETH, wife of J. N. SINGLETARY, Dec. 3, 1862 - Mar. 20,  
1938

JAMES NEAL SINGLETARY, Oct. 30, 1858 - Mar. 5, 1929

PINK, dau. of A. E. & J. N. SINGLETARY, Aug. 4, 1902 - Dec. 20,  
1902, Aged 4 mos. 16 days

JOHN B., Son of A. E. & J. N. SINGLETARY, June 7, 1898 - Jan. 23,  
1901, Aged 2 yrs.

DAVID J., son of A. E. & J. N. SINGLETARY, Sept. 29, 1893 -  
Oct. 26, 1900, Aged 7 yrs.,  
27 days.



Hickory Grove Baptist Church Cemetery, continued.

SALLIE E. SINGLETARY, April 7, 1844 - Jan. 15, 1916

SAMUEL H., son of J. N. & A. E. SINGLETARY, Dec. 16, 1891 -  
Mar. 1, 1919

JUNE SPURGEON SHIPMAN, Nov. 24, 1923 - Mar. 30, 1958

JOHN DUKE SHIPMAN, Dec. 15, 1883 - Dec. 5, 1959

SAMUEL HESTER, May 15, 1878 - Feb. 9, 1945

E. VICTORIA SESSOMS, wife of SAMUEL HESTER, July 4, 1883,  
Jan. 2, 1945

J. C. SESSOMS, Feb. 19, 1872 - Aug. 14, 1931

COMFORT SESSOMS, Aug. 18, 1884 - July 2, 1967

FRANK SESSOMS, Jan. 12, 1885 - May 3, 1914

ROBT. J. SESSOMS, Nov. 29, 1847 - Nov. 16, 1899, Aged 51 yrs.,  
11 mos., 17 days.

HELON S. SESSOMS, Jan. 19, 1852 - Apr. 19, 1898, Aged 46 yrs, 3 mos.

MARY L. SESSOMS HESTER, Oct. 11, 1873 - July 21, 1900

GEORGE HESTER, Feb. 27, 1873 - Jan. 17, 1947

HENRY L. SUMMIT, Mar. 16, 1869 - Jan. 14, 1940

MRS. LIZZIE E. SUMMITT, Died Oct. 24, 1952

L. P. SINGLETARY, Sept. 30, 1853, Oct. 2, 1929

SARAH C. MONROE, his wife, May 25, 1861 - Apr. 2, 1937

LEWTON CAPERS, Son of L. P. & S. C. SINGLETARY, Oct. 16, 1882 -  
Jan. 2, 1902

MARY AGNES, dau. of L. P. & S. C. SINGLETARY, Sept. 12, 1887 -  
Feb. 25, 1888

WALTER N. KINLAW, Dec. 25, 1879 - July 30, 1954

BESSIE S. KINLAW, Jan 20, 1884 - \_\_\_\_\_

GRAHAM SINGLETARY, Aug. 20, 1882 - July 29, 1940

J. L. SINGLETARY, Aug. 20, 1875 - Aug. 31, 1921





HICKORY GROVE CEMETERY, continued.

JOHN N., son of J. W. & E. K. SINGLETARY, Born Aug. 29, 1873, Died  
Nov. 18, 1890, Aged 17 yrs, 2 mos, 20 days

ELSIE, wife of J. W. SINGLETARY, Dec. 17, 1852 - Mar. 13, 1927

J. W. SINGLETARY, Born July 26, 1846, Died Dec. 29, 1901,  
Aged 55 yrs, 5 mos, 3 days

OLIVIA SINGLETARY, Mar. 24, 1878 - Mar. 4, 1935

COLEN SINGLETARY, Dec. 31, 1886, \_\_\_\_\_

MARY L., wife of COLEN SINGLETARY, Sept. 1, 1887 - June 16, 1946

U. B. DAVIS, Feb. 3, 1871 - July 6, 1935

ETTIE, wife of U. B. DAVIS, Feb. 26, 1886 - Sept. 4, 1938

WILLIE I. DAVIS, May 18, 1900 - Feb. 15, 1941

NANCY MAE, wife of W. I. DAVIS, Aug. 5, 1900 - Feb. 2, 1927

INFANT dau. of W. I. & NANCY DAVIS, born and died Aug. 18, 192\_

DEWEY B., Son of W. I. & NANCY DAVIS, Feb. 24, 1925 - July 9, 1925

R. J. EDWARDS, July 19, 1845 - Oct. 7, 1895, Aged 50 yrs, 3 mos.  
18 days.

HARRIET B., wife of R. J. EDWARDS, July 17, 1845 - June 10, 1922

ELLEN IRENE, wife of H. H. BRYAN, Jan. 10, 1880 - Oct. 29, 1905  
Aged 25 yrs, 9 mos, 19 days

SALLIE DAVIS, May 9, 1876 - Feb. 28, 1962

OTIS O. DAVIS, Apr. 14, 1869 - July 30, 1935

J. W. SYKES, 1867 - 1939

ANNA F. SYKES, 1873 - 1954

(large flat stone 3 x 8)

HEMAN BRIDGES SYKES, Sept. 21, 1906 - April 14, 1955, Husband of  
ELMA LOIS PRIDGEN, Father of DOROTHY ANN and PENNY WINN

MR. EDWARD B. SINGLETARY, Died Sept. 25, 1963

BASCOM CAULDER, JR., son of MR. & MRS. BASCOM CAULDER, Oct. 25,  
1910 - Feb. 28, 1913



HICKORY GROVE CEMETERY, continued.

CHARLEY CAULDER, son of MR. & MRS. BASCOM CAULDER, June 1, 1916 -  
Oct. 25, 1918

LOLA LISA REBECCA SHIPMAN, 1967 - 1968

J. FRANK BRISSON, Oct. 30, 1876 - Nov. 28, 1954

EDNA HESTER BRISSON, Nov. 3, 1878 - Aug. 18, 1966

WILLIAM SWAIM KING, JR., Feb. 12, 1956

SUE ELLEN, dau. of MR. & MRS. W. H. TAYLOR, born and died 1959

SALLY BETH, dau. of MR. & MRS. W. H. TAYLOR, born and died 1965

JAMES GORDON SINGLETARY, Jan. 1, 1884 - Oct. 29, 1958

HERBERT BUNYAN DAVIS, Apr. 7, 1931 - Apr. 15, 1959

MATTHEW MUNN HESTER, May 7, 1886 - May 20, 1956

JESSIE SUSAN HESTER, Sept. 24, 1890, \_\_\_\_\_

HARVEY JULIUS ALLEN, Sept. 2, 1922 - Aug. 8, 1968, PFC U. S. Army,  
World War II.

DAN HOWELL, July 6, 1879 - Aug. 10, 1957

MARY SIMMONS HOWELL, July 8, 1878, \_\_\_\_\_

FRED T. NANCE, April 22, 1891 - Dec. 13, 1960

BERTHA SINGLETARY HALES, March 18, 1889 - July 20, 1966

TRACY PIERCE DAVIS, died June 15, 1949, Aged 51 yrs.

MARY ANN SINGLETARY, Died Aug. 7, 1953, Aged 12 days



A HISTORICAL SKETCH  
OF  
HICKORY GROVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CLUB

Hickory Grove Community Development Club has had lasting effects on its community as a service organization.

It was first organized about 1958, under the presidency of June Singletary, Sr., and expired in about two years.

In 1962, the club was organized under the presidency of Seth F. Lewis and the club continues today.

A chronological listing of events follows for the community:

1962	Club was organized
1963	Community building started
1964	Community building completed at cost of about \$8,000. (\$1,000. F. T. Nance Memorial Gift)
1964	Community Library was begun with a Memorial Gift of about 200 books in memory of F. T. Nance
1964	Won Bladen County Championship in County Development - Trophy and cash
1965	Put up uniform Community Signs
1965	Won Bladen County Championship in Community Development - Trophy and cash
1965	Won SENCland Championship in Community Development in six county area - Trophy and cash
1966	Softball Team won first place in Bladenboro Area Trophy
1966	Won Bladen County Championship Community Development - Trophy and cash
1967	Won Softball Championship for Bladenboro Area Trophy
1968	Won Softball Championship for Bladenboro Area Trophy
1968	Won First Place in SENCland Area Community Development Association six county area - Trophy and cash
1968	Showed Educational Booth at North Carolina State Fair - Cash prize and pink ribbon
1969	Showed Educational Booth at North Carolina Blueberry Festival, White Lake
1969	Installed vinyl floor covering in community building, courtesy Mitchell Nance

Outstanding leaders in community development have been: Ira Davis, Softball Program; Gordon Davis, June Singletary, and Leo Hester, Building Committee; and Luther Davis, Pinkie Allen, Pearl Hester and Nellie Richardson, general programs.



## LEWIS CEMETERY

(Located on back side of Hester's Pond in Hickory Grove Community off of rural road no. 1101. Turn beside the home of Richard Lewis and follow the dirt road for some distance and you will come across the cemetery on the left.)

1. EDWARD LEWIS, Oct. 4, 1838 - April 10, 1850
2. DAVID G. LEWIS, Aug. 30, 1830 - Aug. 10, 1856
3. RICHARD M. LEWIS, SR., Feb. 6, 1797 - Sept. 21, 1856
4. HANAH, wife of R. M. LEWIS, who died May 29, 1868, aged 72 years
5. ROBERT A. M. DEAL, May 6, 1898 - Jan. 11, 1965
6. HORACE B. LEWIS, July 17, 1867 - Apr. 11, 1916
7. DURHAM LEWIS, Jan. 25, 1888 - Feb. 4, 1955
8. WILLIAM EVANDER LEWIS, Feb. 20, 1860 - Mar. 2, 1942
9. MARY R. DAVIS, wife of WILLIAM EVANDER LEWIS, Mar. 7, 1870-  
Dec. 20, 1955
10. RICHARD MULLINGTON LEWIS, Oct. 14, 1827 - Oct. 8, 1886
11. LILLIE LEWIS, dau. of R. M. & C. E. LEWIS, 1863 - 1886
12. HANNAH JANE, dau. of RICH. M. & CLARISSA E. LEWIS, Jan. 5, 1851 -  
Mar. 3, 1858
13. RICHARD S. LEWIS, April 4, 1855 - Mar. 19, 1911
14. SARAH ANN, wife of WILLIAM S. LEWIS, April 22, 1829 - April 3, 1903  
Aged 73 years, 11 mos., 11 days
15. WILLIAM S. LEWIS, May 16, 1824 - Aug. 12, 1880
16. POLLY, dau. of E. J. & E. G. LEWIS, April 18, 1881 - June 15,  
1883
17. ELIZABETH C., wife of E. J. LEWIS, Dec. 28, 1850 - June 30, 1926
18. EDWARD J. LEWIS, Aug. 29, 1850 - Sept. 15, 1901, Age 51 years,  
16 dys.

(Copied by Nash A. Odom on February 19, 1968)





EDWARDS (HESTER) CEMETERY

(Located on Rural Road no. 1102 at the back side of Hester's Pond on the Gordan Davis Farm.)

1. GILMORE EDWARDS, May 3, 1836 - May 11, 1908. Aged 72 years,  
8 days
2. SARAH C., wife of GILMORE EDWARDS, Sept. 8, 1853 - Feb. 11, 1901
3. ZEB. V. EDWARDS, Nov. 2, 1875 - Apr. 15, 1924
4. MAGGIE G., wife of Z. V. EDWARDS, Sept. 17, 1873 - Mar. 9, 1941
5. ALLEN R. EDWARDS, Nov. 29, 1878 - Oct. 13, 1930
6. MELVA, dau. of W. S. & M. E. HILBURN, July 11, 1916 - July 14,  
1916
7. MYRTLE, dau. of ROY & LILA HESTER, Nov. 21, 1916 - Aug. 12, 1917
8. SALLY, wife of DAVID HESTER, May 27, 1825 - Mar. 5, 1884
9. DANIEL HESTER, died Sept. 2, 1884, Aged 68 yrs. 6 ms. & 17 days
10. EDWARD T. HESTER, May 2, 1848 - July 9, 1904 Aged 56 years
11. MARY ANN, wife of E. T. HESTER, May 10, 1849 - Dec. 21, 1922
12. MATT HESTER, Feb. 2, 1885 - Sept. 24, 1914
13. MONNIE E. HESTER KING, 1889-1966
14. JAMES C. HESTER, son of L. & M. HESTER, July 27, 1900 - Aug. 31,  
1901

(Copied by Nash A. Odom on February 19, 1968)



## A HISTORY OF HICKORY GROVE SCHOOL

By: Luther Brisson - Seth Lewis

Hickory Grove Community's interest in education was probably highest from 1909 to 1929---the approximate years of the Hickory Grove School.

The school building was one of the better buildings of its day, since its designer and builders made it two-story for future expansion. However, it was very rare occasions that teachers would permit anxious students on the second floor.

The first teacher was probably Caroline Johnson and a list of other teachers that might be incomplete, includes Sally Lewis, Docia Butler (Bryan), Ila Mae Kinlaw, Ollea Melvin, Frankie Tatum, Annie Edwards, Evelyn Woodburn, and Lena Singletary (Gillespie).

Docia Butler (Bryan) taught during two terms, 1919-1921. A biscuit baking contest was sponsored in Bladen County Schools. Rose Lewis (Vaught) and Clara Hester (Lennon) entered and both won in Bladenboro Township. Rose Lewis (Vaught) also won County Honors and the prize was a set of silver salt and pepper shakers.

A partial listing of students of Docia Butler, 1919-1921, follows:

Maurice Hester	Evelyn Lewis
Jim Hester	William Neil Singletary
Thomas Hester	Ernestine Singletary
Marcus Hester	Annie Hickman
Clara Hester	Sam Hickman
Ruby Hester	Thomas Brisson
Helen Hester	Bertie Brisson
Thedford Hester	Luther Brisson
Versie Hester	Gracie Cheshire
Leo Hester	Homer Cheshire
Teed Hester	Johnnie Cheshire
Rose Lewis	Slade Edwards

Many students remember fondly the first glimpse of the "acts" they learned when "Mrs. Docia Butler" began teaching music and drawing.

The only school board members that can be cited for the local school were Sam Hester, Roy Hester, and Jim Singletary.



Hickory Grove Church absorbed most of the school property that included the land, and the salvaged lumber from the school was used to build the side rooms on the church building.

Even though there is no trace of the school, near its site is now Hickory Grove Pastorium, the memory is strong of the cold early morning walks, the cutting of firewood, the smell of hardwood and pine burning in the pot-bellied heater, strange teachers boarding in the community and the smell of crayons and the frantic feeling when school was out!





HICKORY GROVE SCHOOL BUILDING  
Circa 1920  
(Drawn by Roberta D. Lewis)





### FOOTNOTES

1. History of Lennon's Cross Roads Church, 1797-1959, by Rev. J. Richard McDuffie.
2. Ibid.
3. Conference Minute Record Book I of Lennon's Cross Roads Church
4. Deed in possession of Hickory Grove Baptist Church
5. Deed in possession of Hickory Grove Baptist Church
6. Deed Book 58, pg. 78. Register of Deeds Office, Bladen County Courthouse
7. Deed Book 92, pg. 386. Register of Deeds Office, Bladen County Courthouse
8. Deed Book 134, pg. 556. Register of Deeds Office, Bladen County Courthouse.
9. Stroupe, Henry Smith. "North Carolina Associations", Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists, Vol. II. Nashville, Tenn.: Broadman Press, 1958. Pg. 1015.
10. The Triennial Baptist Register. I. M. Allen, Editor. No. 2. Philadelphia: Baptist General Tract Society, 1836. Pp. 165-177.
11. Ibid. pg. 175.
12. Minutes of Cape Fear Association for 1851
13. Minutes of Cape Fear Association for 1857
14. Minutes of Cape Fear Association for 1873
15. Minutes of Cape Fear Association for 1874
16. Minutes of Cape Fear Association for 1879
17. Minutes of Central Union (Possession of Hickory Grove Baptist Church)
18. Minutes of Rebeson Union (Possession of Nash A. Odom)
19. Minutes of Bladen Association
20. Conference Record Book of Lennon's Cross Roads Baptist Church, Book I. Pg. 38.



Footnotes, continued.

21. History of Davis Family by Nash A. Odom
22. History of Prevatt Family by Nash A. Odom
23. History of Johnson Family by Nash A. Odom



## HICKORY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH (1834-1967)

YEAR	PASTOR	CLERK	TREAS.	MISS- IONS	PASTOR SALARY	MEMBERSHIP
1834	Elias Davis	James B. Singletary				
1835	" "	" "				
1836	Elias Davis	Harmon Singletary				48
1837	" "	" "				
1838	" "	" "				
1839	Elias Davis	John Ward				
1840	" "	" "				
1841	" "	" "				
1842	" "	" "				
1843	Elias Davis	Ewen Johnson	Ewen Johnson			
1844	" "	" "	" "			
1845	" "	" "	" "			
1846	" "	" "	" "			
1847	" "	" "	" "			
1848	" "	" "	" "			
1849	Isham Stone	" "	" "			
1850	" "	" "	" "			
1851	Isham Stone	" "	" "			80
1852	" "	" "	" "			
1853	Haynes Lennon	" "	" "			
1854	" "	" "	" "			
1855	Furney Prevatte	" "	" "			
1856	" "	" "	" "			
1857	Furney Prevatte	" "	" "	10.00		105
1858	" "	" "	" "			
1859	Furney Prevatte	" "	" "			
1860	" "	" "	" "			
1861	" "	" "	" "			
1862	Elias Johnson	" "	" "			
1863	" "	" "	" "			
1864	" "	" "	" "			
1865	" "	" "	" "			
1866	" "	" "	" "			
1867	" "	" "	" "			
1868	" "	" "	" "			
1869	" "	" "	" "			
1870	" "	" "	" "		58.90	
1871	" "	" "	" "		75.75	
1872	" "	" "	" "		100.00	
1873	" "	" "	" "	7.50	59.00	165
1874	Elias Johnson	L. P. Singletary	L. P. Singletary		65.00	162
1875	" "	" "	" "			
1876	" "	Wm. R. Davis	Wm. R. Davis		43.00	
1877	" "	Ewen Johnson	Ewen Johnson		47.00	



yr.	PASTOR	CLERK	S.S. SUPT.	BTU DIRECTOR	WMU PRES.
1878	Elias Johnson	Ewen Johnson			
1879	" "	" "			
1880	" "	George W. Jones			
1881	" "	" "			
1882	" "	" "			
1883	" "	" "			
1884	" "	" "			
1885	" "	" "			
1886	" "	" "			
1887	" "	" "			
1888	" "	" "			
1889	" "	" "			
1890	" "	" "			
1891	" "	" "			
1892	J. G. Fisher	G. F. Allen			
1893	" "	" "			
1894	" "	" "			
1895	" "	" "			
1896	" "	" "			
1897	E. W. Wooten	G. F. Allen			
1898	" "	" "			
1899	J. G. Fisher	G. F. Allen			
1900	W. S. Bullard	Seth Lewis			
1901	" "	" "			
1902	R. L. Byrd	" "			
1903	R. L. Byrd	Seth Lewis			
1904	" "	" "			
1905	" "	" "			
1906	" "	" "			
1907	" "	" "			
1908	J. M. Flemming	" "			
1909	R. M. Hilburn	" "			
1910	A. H. Porter	Seth Lewis			
1911	" "	" "			
1912	R. M. Hilburn	" "			
1913	R. M. Hilburn				
	R. S. Lennon	" "	Roy Hester		
1914	R. S. Lemon				
	R. N. Cashwell	" "	Roy Hester		
1915	" "	" "	" "		
1916	" "	" "	Seth Lewis		
1917	R. N. Cashwell	Seth Lewis	Seth Lewis		
1918	" "	" "	" "		
1919	R. N. Cashwell	Seth Lewis	Seth Lewis		
1920	" "	" "	" "		
1921	" "	" "	" "	(Minutes Dup. 1920)	
1922	W. D. Pridgen	Seth Lewis	Seth Lewis		
1923	" "	" "	" "		Miss Colum- bia Singletary





Yr.	Pastor	Clerk	S.S. Supt.	BTU Dir.	WMU Pres.
1924	W.D. Pridgen	Seth Lewis	Seth Lewis	June Single- tary	Mrs. Pency Hester
1925	E.A. Paul	Seth Lewis	" "	" "	Mrs. George Hester
1926	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
1927	" "	" "	" "		
1928	" "	" "	" "		
1929	E.A. Paul	Seth Lewis	Seth Lewis		
1930	" "	" "	" "		
1931	" "	" "	" "		
1932	" "	" "	" "		
1933	E.A. Paul	Seth Lewis	J. F. Brisson		
1934	" "	" "	" "		
1935	E. A. Paul	Seth Lewis	J. F. Brisson		
1936	" "	" "	" "		
1937	" "	" "	" "		
1938	" "	" "	" "		
1939	" "	" "	" "		
1940	E. A. Paul	Seth Lewis	M. M. Hester	Fred T. Nance	Mrs. June Single- tary
1941	" "	" "	" "		
1942	" "	" "	" "		Single-
1943	E. A. Paul	Seth Lewis	M. M. Hester	Fred T. Nance	Mrs. June tary
1944	E. A. Paul	Seth Lewis	M. M. Hester	Fred T. Nance	Miss Althea Lewis
1945	E. A. Paul	Seth Lewis	M. M. Hester	Fred T. Nance	Miss Ruby Hester
1946	E. A. Paul	Seth Lewis	Thomas Brisson	Fred T. Nance	" "
1947	E. A. Paul	Seth Lewis	Thomas Brisson		
1948	E. A. Paul	Seth Lewis	Thomas Brisson	James C. Singletary	Miss Ruby Hester
1949	R. A. Stank- sytch	Seth Lewis	Roy Hester	Ralph W. Lewis	" "
1950	" "	Elden Hester	Luther Brisson	Fred T. Nance	" "
1951	R. L. Edwards	" "	" "	Luther Brisson	" "
1952	R. L. Edwards		Luther Davis	Fred Nance	" "
1953	" "	" "	Julius Allen	" "	" "
1954	R. L. Edwards	M. M. Hester	" "	" "	" "
1955	T. H. Lambert	Coy Hickman	Luther Davis	Fred Nance	Mrs. Harvey Allen
1956	" "	" "	Ralph Lewis	" "	Miss Geneva Allen
1957	J.C. Shaw, Jr.	" "	" "	" "	" "
1958	" "	E.G. Hester	Ervin Hester	" "	" "
1959	J.C. Shaw, Jr.	Seth F. Lewis	Ervin Hester	F. T. Nance	Mrs. J. C. Shaw
1960	no pastor	Seth F. Lewis	Leo Hester	F. T. Nance	Mrs. Harvey Allen
1961	Robert Earl Carter	Elden G. Hester	Leo Hester	Ralph Lewis	" "
1962	" "	" "	Miller Hester	G. B. Davis	Mrs. Sam Hickman
1963	" "	" "	" "	Luther Davis	" "
1964	no pastor	" "	Leo M. Hester	" "	Mrs. Ralph Single- tary



Yr.	Pastor	Clerk	S.S. Supt.	BTU Dir.	WMU Pres.
1965	Leroy Trevathan	Elden G. Hester	Luther Brisson	Elden Hester	Mrs. Luther Davis
1966	" "	" "	" "	Luther Davis	Miss Geneva Allen
1967	" "	" "	Leo Richard- son	Leo Hester	" "



Yr.	Treas.	Recpt.	Mission	Pastor Salary	Memb.	S.S.En.	BTU En.
1878	Ewen Johnson						
1879	Ewen Johnson			29.00	169		
1880	G. W. Jones						
1881	G. W. Jones						
1882	G. W. Jones						
1883	G. W. Jones				160		
1884	G. W. Jones				163		
1885	" "		5.00	50.00	154		
1886	G. W. Jones		10.70	40.00	147		
1887	" "		8.43		154		
1888	G. W. Jones		6.50		170		
1889	" "		7.55		178		
1890	G. W. Jones		16.85		178		
1891	" "		5.30		181		
1892	G. W. Jones						
1893	" "						
1894	G. W. Jones						
1895	G. W. Jones						
	Also: J. W. Singletary						
	E. J. Lewis, and J. M. Sessoms						
1896	" "						
1897	" "	86.90	23.87	55.95			
1898	" "	77.32	26.07	51.25			
1899	" "						
1900	J. W. Singletary						
1901	" "						
1902	J. W. Singletary						
1903	" "	214.49		80.00	159		
1904	G. F. Allen			80.00			
1905	" "			90.00			
1906	G. F. Allen			90.00			
1907	" "	252.05	167.65	90.00			
1908	L. P. Singletary	202.87		100.00	182		
1909	L. P. Singletary			125.00			
1910	Dillon A. Butler	246.66	97.31	125.00	188		
1911	Roy Hester	242.30	115.90	125.00	183		
1912	" "						
1913			64.37	125.00	166		
1914		236.53	50.77	125.00	163	46	
1915		172.79		125.00	147	41	
1916		189.33		125.00	140		
1917		233.94	65.74	125.00	149	52	
1918		244.36		150.00	145		
1919		362.63	140.61	187.40	132	55	
1920		755.44	496.90	200.00	130	46	
1921	Minutes Dup. 1920						
1922		542.30	219.34	200.00	119	45	
1923		536.41	290.23	186.25	120	37	



Yr.	Treas.	Recpt.	Mission	Pastor Salary	Memb.	S.S. En.	BTU En.
1924	Roy Hester	422.25	161.16	200.00	137	45	24
1925	" "	982.37	408.75	300.00	139	100	34
1926	Roy Hester	699.05	331.71	246.58	141	97	37
1927	" "	973.49	296.96	260.58	135	96	29
1928	Roy Hester	940.19	335.94	232.42	143		
1929	" "	774.17	323.45	225.40	146	99	
1930	Roy Hester						
1931	" "						
1932	" "				158		
1933	Roy Hester	463.42	113.17	200.00	164	96	
1934	Roy Hester	715.59	198.29	340.00	164		32
1935	" "	721.41	225.19	316.15	159	94	35
1936	Roy Hester	759.77	304.39	325.00	165	119	36
1937	" "						
1938	" "						
1939	" "				208		
1940	Roy Hester	797.56	269.87	300.00	206	119	49
1941	" "						
1942	" "				208		
1943	Roy Hester	2,079.78	985.26	697.75	217	126	45
1944	" "	2,212.82	1,063.90	617.00	218	142	47
1945	Roy Hester	2,915.85	1,492.16	855.00	218	147	52
1946	" "	3,594.25	1,920.98	895.75	225	144	50
1947	Roy Hester	3,712.98	1,059.02	738.11	220	142	
1948	" "	6,807.54	1,493.97	700.00	227	152	111
1949	Roy Hester	3,342.15	957.78	668.92	222	152	100
1950	" "	3,756.84	1,624.86	771.00	226	171	97
1951	Roy Hester	3,642.00	1,574.00	1,003.00	217	171	100
1952	" "	5,561.00	2,765.00	1,375.00	218	171	115
1953	Roy Hester	4,935.15	2,311.98	1,500.00	222	171	94
1954	" "	4,442.50	2,255.15	"	232	171	83
1955	Leon Edge	5,202.93	2,936.39	1,800.00	229	171	82
1956	" "	8,572.03	2,299.20	1,800.00	230	181	71
1957	Leon Edge	6,681.38	1,798.64	1,492.50	226	181	81
1958	Leon Edge	5,114.00	2,221.00	1,800.00	239	181	81
1959	Maurice Hester	9,707.70	1,439.49	1,800.00	235	181	81
1960	" "	6,899.84	1,110.32	" "	229	187	81
1961	Mitchell Hester	6,047.15	1,131.70	750.00	230	181	81
1962	Maurice Hester	7,089.30	1,551.70	1,800.00	206	186	75
1963	" "	6,902.00	2,448.00	" "	221	160	69
1964	" "	7,952.00	2,058.00	" "	217	160	70
1965	" "	6,927.00	2,249.00	1,105.00	211	141	71
1966	Maurice Hester	7,898.00	1,728.00	2,400.00	197	150	52
1967	" "	9,398.00	2,484.00	2,300.00	199	160	57

























